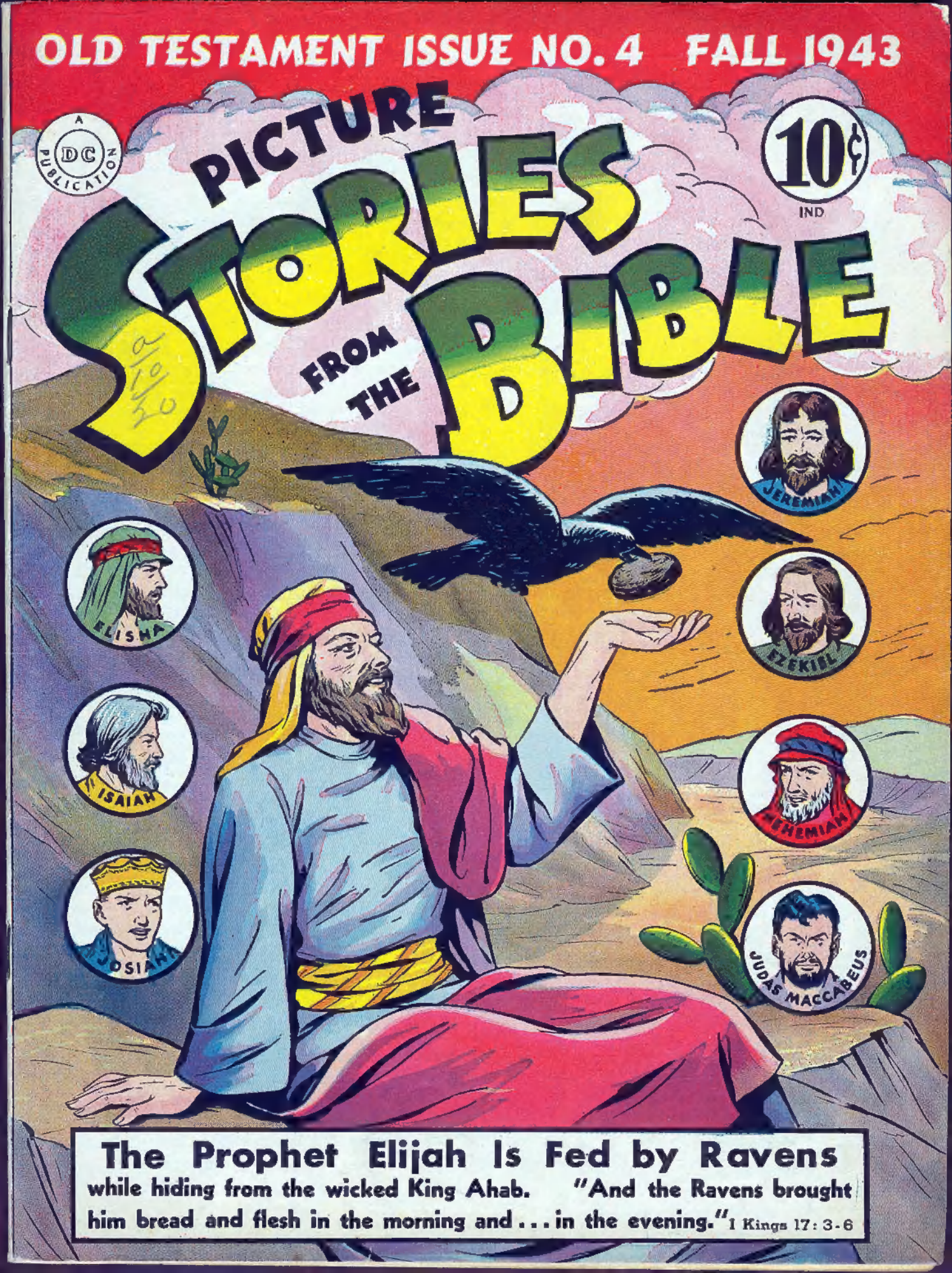
OLD TESTAMENT ISSUE NO. 4 FALL 1943



The Prophet Elijah Is Fed by Ravens
while hiding from the wicked King Ahab. "And the Ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and . . . in the evening." 1 Kings 17: 3-6

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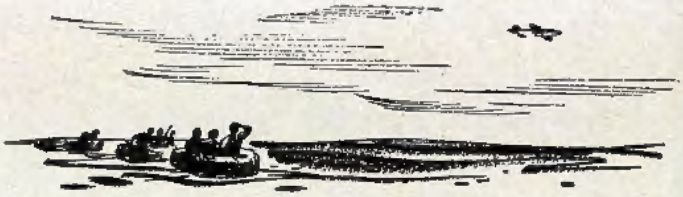

ONE of the most stirring stories that has come out of the present world conflict is that of a modern miracle, the amazing story told by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, leading ace of World War I.

An American aeroplane carrying Captain Rickenbacker, who was on an important mission for the U. S. Secretary of War, was forced down into the Pacific Ocean on October 21, 1942. Captain Rickenbacker and his seven companions kept afloat, more dead than alive, in three small rubber rafts, for twenty-one days. One man died and was buried at sea.

Faith Works A Modern Miracle

This is what Captain Eddie Rickenbacker said when he came back to Washington after his rescue, and made his report to the Secretary of War:

"We had no rain until the eighth night. We saw nothing in the way of searching planes or ships. The boy in my boat had an issue Bible in the pocket of his jumper, and the second day out we organized little evening and morning prayer meetings and took turns about, reading passages from The Bible.

"Frankly and humbly we prayed for our deliverance. After the oranges were gone a terrific lot of pangs of hunger showed up and we prayed for food. We had a couple of little fish lines with hooks about the size of the end of my little finger, but no bait. Were it not for the fact I have seven witnesses, I wouldn't dare tell this story because it seems so fantastic.

"Within an hour after prayer meeting one day, a sea gull came in and landed on my head. You can imagine my nervousness in trying to turn around and get him, which I did. We wrung his head, feathered him, carved up his carcass, and distributed and used his innards for bait."

IN this fourth and last Old Testament issue of PICTURE STORIES FROM THE BIBLE are told the stories of the old Hebrew Prophets whose faith and efforts brought their people to a belief in the one true God.

Like all people who work for a better world, theirs was a difficult task and they had to suffer for their convictions. They were called foolish when they maintained that only a knowledge and practice of faith in God would solve the political and economic troubles of their times. God frequently

(continued on inside back cover)

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Picture Stories from the Bible

Old Testament
Issue No. 4

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In preparing these stories from the Old Testament, the following official versions have been consulted: King James (Protestant), Douay (Catholic) and that of the Jewish Publication Society of America.

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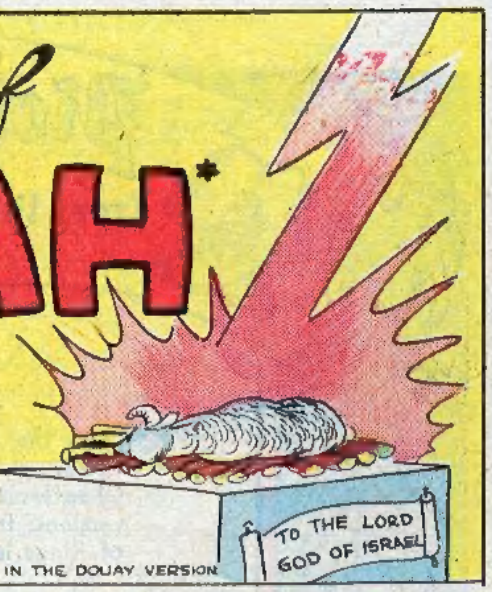
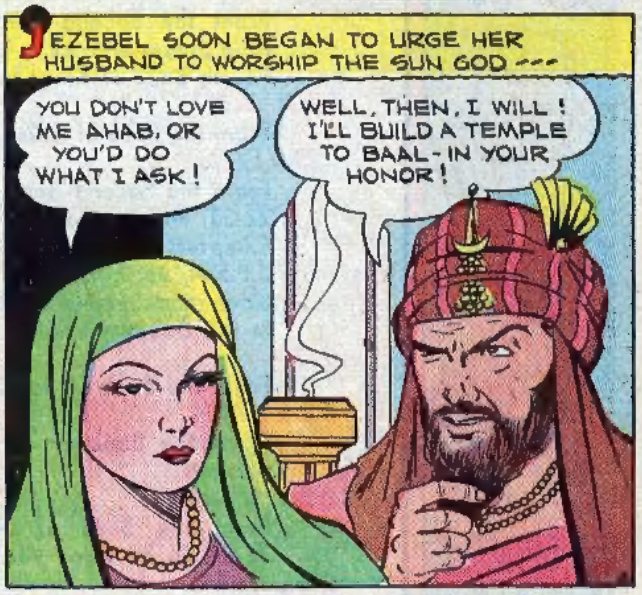
The Story of ELIJAH*

FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF KINGS IN THE JAMES AND J.P.S.A. VERSIONS—THIRD KINGS IN DOUAY VERSION CHAPTERS 16 THROUGH 22



*SPELLED ELIAS IN THE DOUAY VERSION



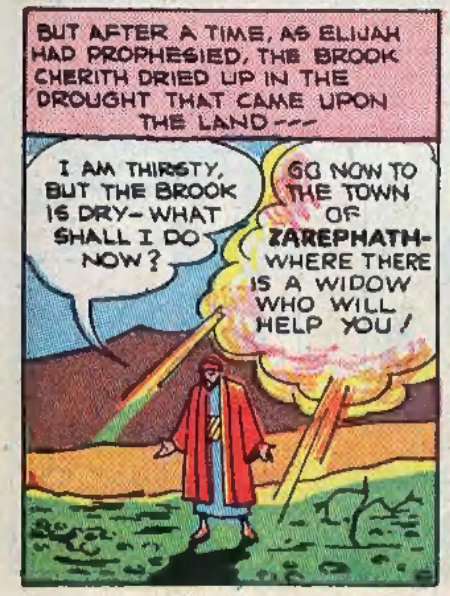
AS THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL LIVES, NO RAIN SHALL FALL ON YOUR LAND FOR YEARS!
THIS CRAZY PROPHET THREATENS US! SEIZE HIM, GUARDS!

BUT ELIJAH ESCAPED THE GUARDS---
AFTER HIM! HE'S GETTING AWAY!

NOW IN DANGER, HE WAS GUIDED TO GO TO THE BROOK CHERITH FOR REFUGE---
YOU WILL BE SAFE HERE— DRINK OF THE BROOK- AND I HAVE COMMANDED THE RAVENS TO FEED YOU HERE!

NEXT MORNING....
I AM VERY HUNGRY —BUT GOD HAS PROMISED TO SEND HIS RAVENS WITH FOOD FOR ME!

AS ELIJAH WATCHED---


BUT AFTER A TIME, AS ELIJAH HAD PROPHESIED, THE BROOK CHERITH DRIED UP IN THE DROUGHT THAT CAME UPON THE LAND---
I AM THIRSTY, BUT THE BROOK IS DRY- WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?
GO NOW TO THE TOWN OF ZAREPHATH- WHERE THERE IS A WIDOW WHO WILL HELP YOU!

AT THE GATE OF ZAREPHATH, ELIJAH SAW A WIDOW GATHERING STICKS FOR FIREWOOD---
THIS IS THE WOMAN WHO IS TO HELP ME!

BRING ME A MORSEL OF BREAD!
I HAVE NO BREAD, ONLY A LITTLE MEAL AND OIL —HARDLY ENOUGH TO KEEP ME AND MY SON ALIVE!

GO AND MAKE BREAD FROM THE MEAL AND OIL — THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US FOR MANY DAYS!

BY A MIRACLE, THE FEW HANDFULS OF MEAL AND THE FEW DROPS OF OIL DID BECOME MULTIPLIED MANY TIMES~~
THIS MORNING THERE WAS HARDLY A CUP LEFT!
HE MUST BE A HOLY MAN, MOTHER!

LATER, THE WOMAN'S SON GREW VERY ILL~~~
I'M AFRAID! HE'S NOT BREATHING!
HAVE NO FEAR - GO AND LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HIM!

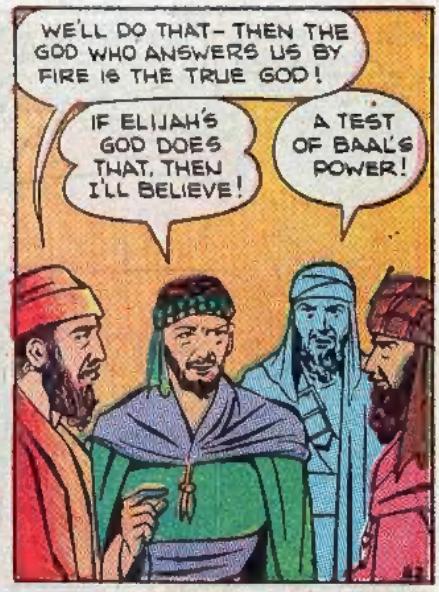
ELIJAH TAKES THE CHILD TO HIS OWN ROOM~~
GOD HAS HEARD MY PRAYER!
I'M WELL AGAIN!

SEE, YOUR SON IS HEALED!
BY THIS I KNOW THAT YOU ARE A MAN OF GOD, AND THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD IN YOUR MOUTH IS TRUTH!

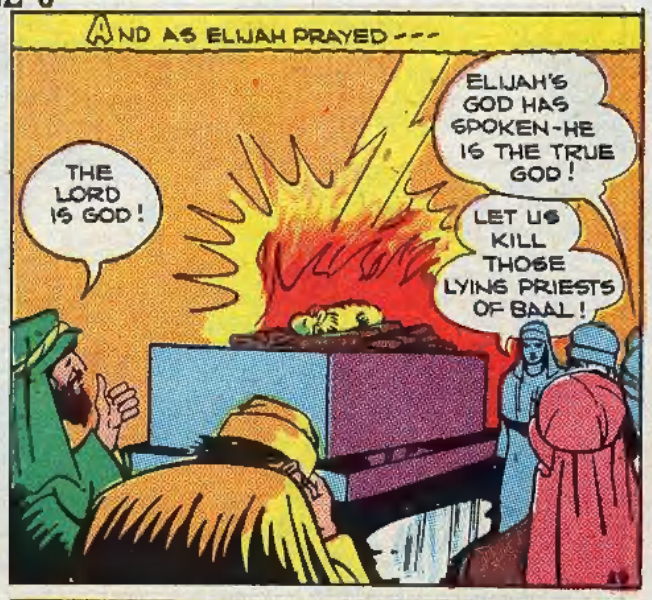
MEANWHILE, NO RAIN FELL ON AHAB'S KINGDOM AND THE DROUGHT MADE EVERYONE SUFFER. AND GOD TOLD ELIJAH TO GO BACK AND SHOW HIMSELF TO AHAB. AS ELIJAH RETURNED, HE MET OBADIAH, SERVANT OF THE KING~~
CAN IT BE ELIJAH?
YES - GO AND TELL THE KING I AM HERE!
18

WILL YOU PROMISE TO BE HERE AND NOT DISAPPEAR AGAIN? IF YOU GO, KING AHAB WILL SLAY ME - HE'S LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU!
I PROMISE TO WAIT FOR HIM HERE!

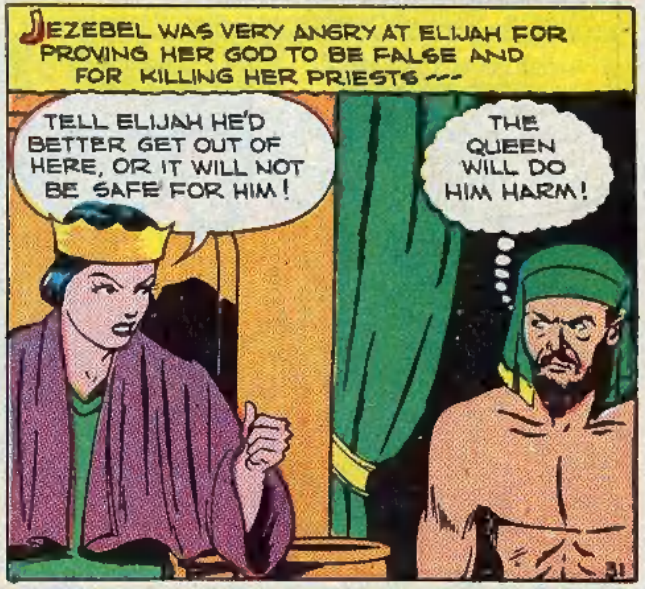
ELIJAH PROPOSED A TEST TO PROVE THAT BAAL WAS A FALSE GOD. HE ASKED THAT PRIESTS OF BAAL BE SUMMONED TO MOUNT CARMEL TO OFFER UP A BULLOCK TO BAAL ON ONE ALTAR, WHILE HE WOULD OFFER UP A BULLOCK ON THE ALTAR OF THE LORD

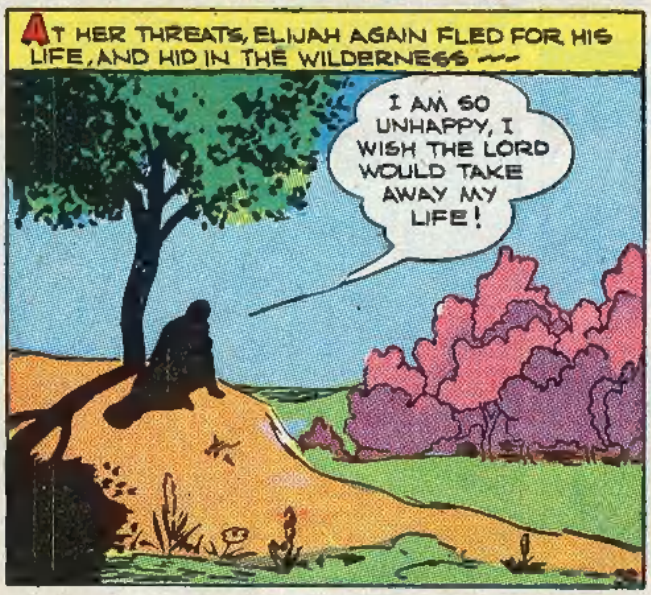


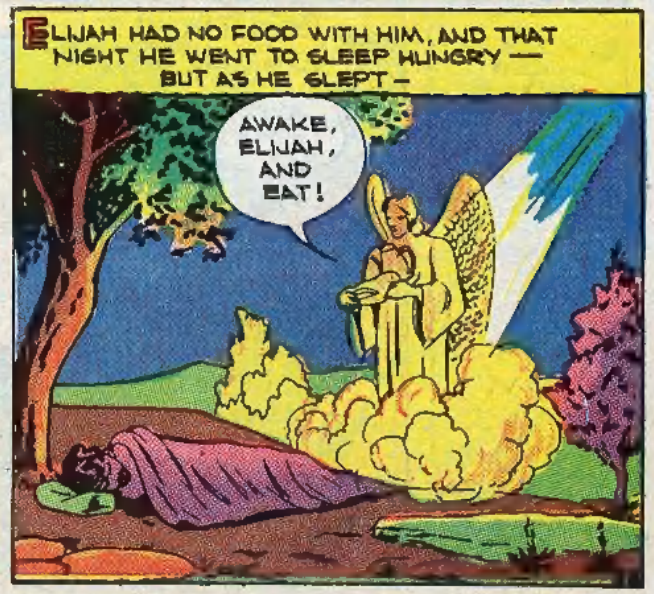
ELIJAH PRAYS TO THE LORD...
O LORD, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, OF ISAAC AND OF ISRAEL, LET IT BE KNOWN THIS DAY THAT YOU ARE GOD IN ISRAEL, AND THAT I AM YOUR SERVANT AND THAT I HAVE DONE ALL THESE THINGS ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD-HEAR ME, O LORD, HEAR ME, THAT THIS PEOPLE MAY KNOW THAT YOU, LORD, ART GOD!


AND AS ELIJAH PRAYED ---
THE LORD IS GOD!
ELIJAH'S GOD HAS SPOKEN-HE IS THE TRUE GOD!
LET US KILL THOSE LYING PRIESTS OF BAAL!

WHEN THE MEN SAW THAT BAAL WAS A FALSE GOD THEY DESTROYED THE FALSE PRIESTS AND THE DROUGHT WAS LIFTED ---
SOON GOD WILL SEND RAIN, AHAB!
LOOK! THERE'S A BLACK CLOUD ON THE HORIZON!
PRAISE THE GOD OF ISRAEL!
NOW OUR CATTLE WILL NOT DIE!

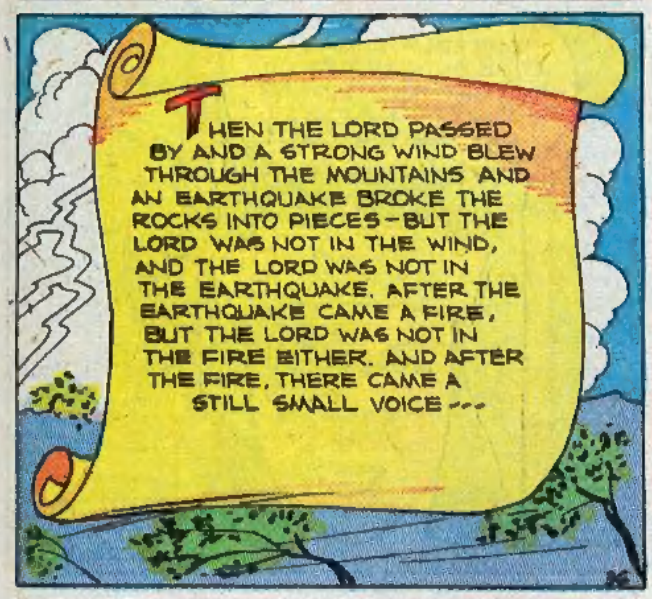

JEZEBEL WAS VERY ANGRY AT ELIJAH FOR PROVING HER GOD TO BE FALSE AND FOR KILLING HER PRIESTS ---
TELL ELIJAH HE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE, OR IT WILL NOT BE SAFE FOR HIM!
THE QUEEN WILL DO HIM HARM!

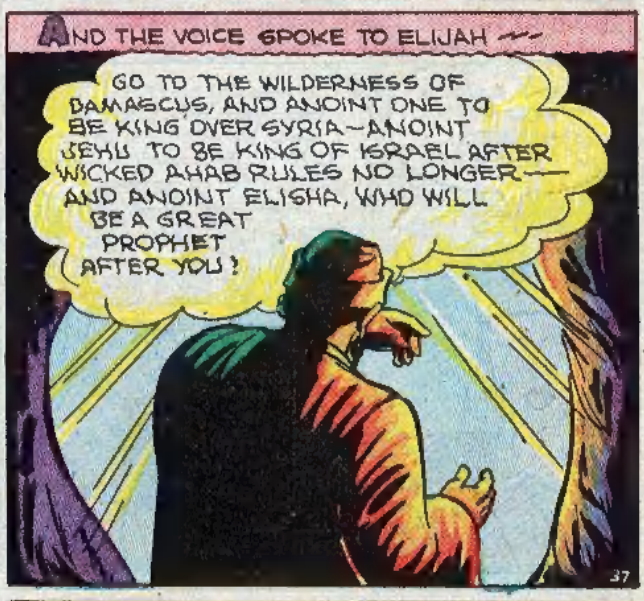

AT HER THREATS, ELIJAH AGAIN FLED FOR HIS LIFE, AND HID IN THE WILDERNESS ---
I AM SO UNHAPPY, I WISH THE LORD WOULD TAKE AWAY MY LIFE!

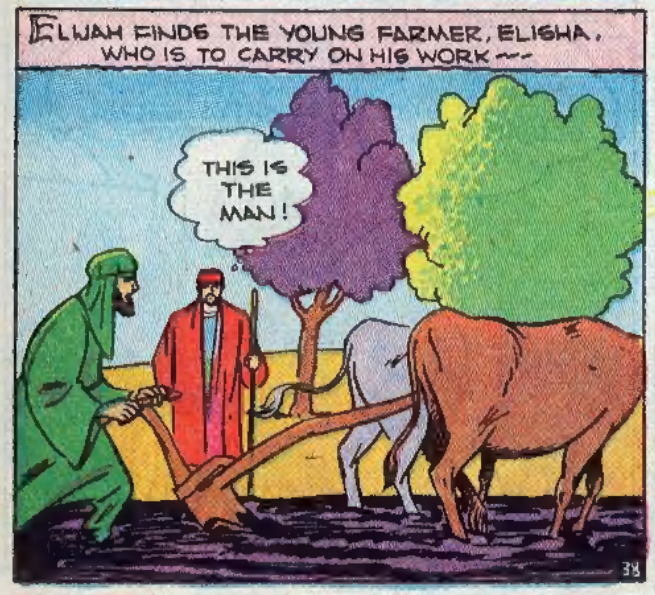

ELIJAH HAD NO FOOD WITH HIM, AND THAT NIGHT HE WENT TO SLEEP HUNGRY — BUT AS HE SLEPT –
AWAKE, ELIJAH, AND EAT!

SO MUCH STRENGTH DID THIS HEAVENLY FOOD GIVE ELIJAH THAT HE WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS TO MOUNT HOREB, WHERE THE VOICE OF GOD SPOKE TO HIM ---
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ELIJAH?
THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SEEK MY LIFE BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN JEALOUS FOR THE LORD GOD OF HOSTS!

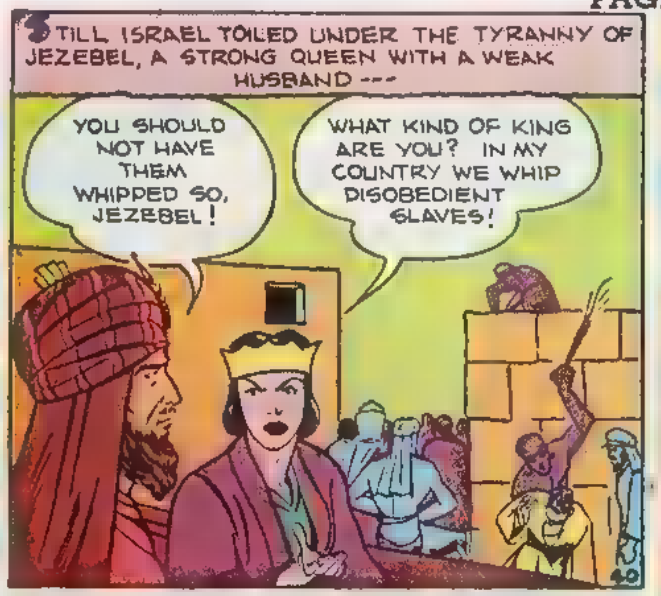
AND THE VOICE SPOKE AGAIN, AND COMMANDED ELIJAH TO GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP ---

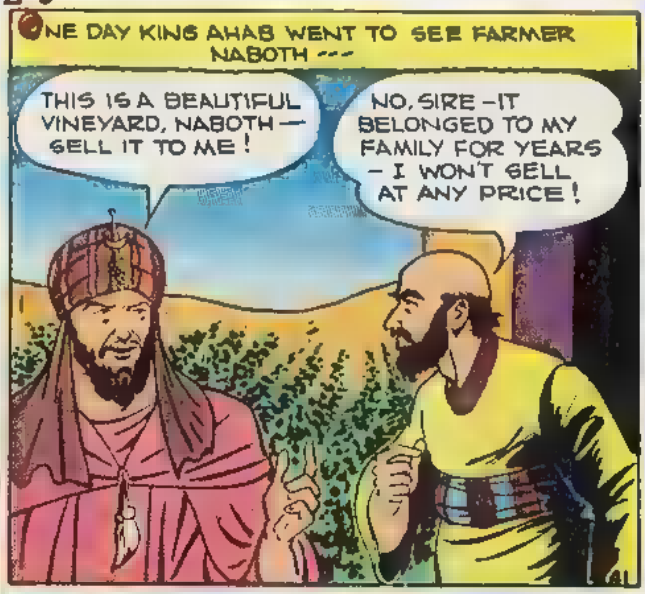

THEN THE LORD PASSED BY AND A STRONG WIND BLEW THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS AND AN EARTHQUAKE BROKE THE ROCKS INTO PIECES—BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE WIND, AND THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE EARTHQUAKE. AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE CAME A FIRE, BUT THE LORD WAS NOT IN THE FIRE EITHER. AND AFTER THE FIRE, THERE CAME A STILL SMALL VOICE ---

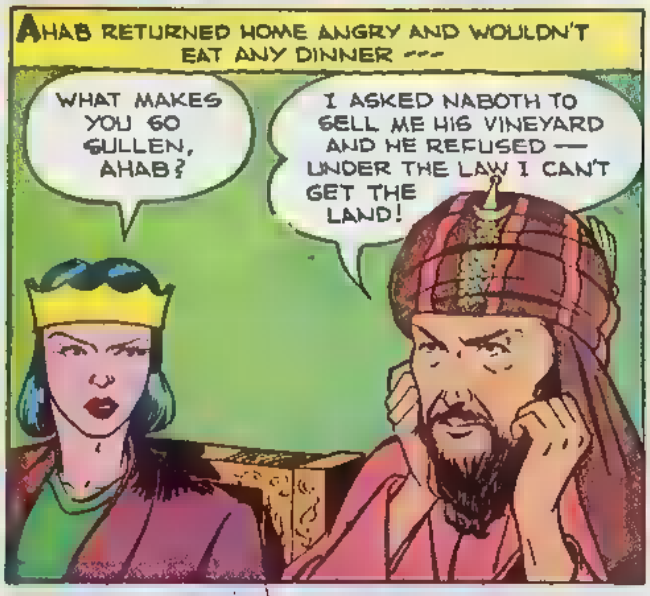

AND THE VOICE SPOKE TO ELIJAH ---
GO TO THE WILDERNESS OF DAMASCUS, AND ANOINT ONE TO BE KING OVER SYRIA—ANOINT JEHU TO BE KING OF ISRAEL AFTER WICKED AHAB RULES NO LONGER— AND ANOINT ELISHA, WHO WILL BE A GREAT PROPHET AFTER YOU!


ELIJAH FINDS THE YOUNG FARMER, ELISHA, WHO IS TO CARRY ON HIS WORK ---
THIS IS THE MAN!

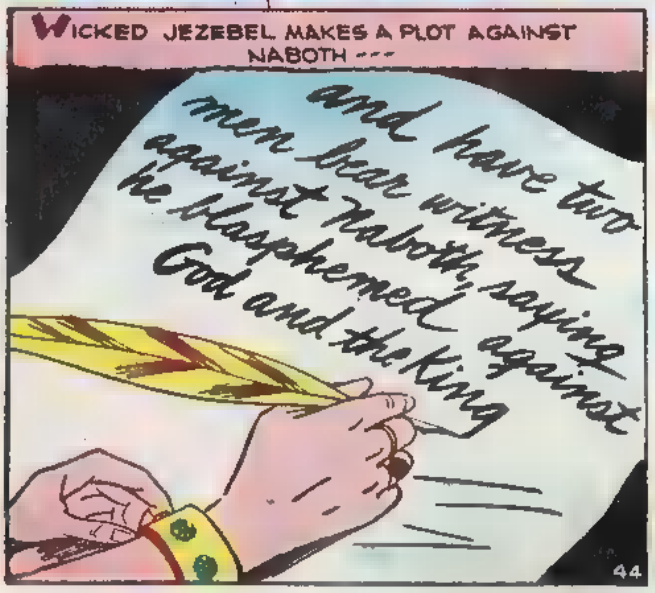
ELIJAH CAST HIS MANTLE ON ELISHA—A SYMBOL THAT ELISHA WAS TO SUCCEED HIM ---
YOU ARE TO FOLLOW ME AND DO MY WORK AFTER I AM GONE!
I'LL SERVE YOU, MASTER. JUST LET ME SAY GOODBYE TO MY FAMILY—I WILL COME AT ONCE!

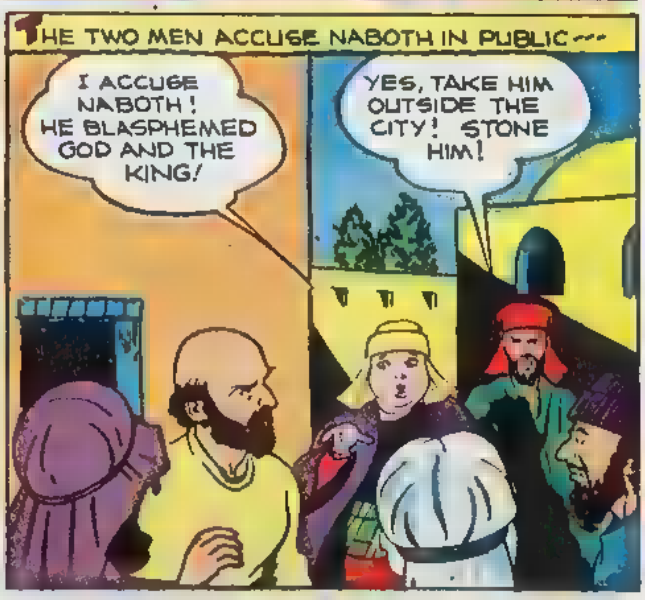

STILL ISRAEL TOILED UNDER THE TYRANNY OF JEZEBEL, A STRONG QUEEN WITH A WEAK HUSBAND ---
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE THEM WHIPPED SO, JEZEBEL!
WHAT KIND OF KING ARE YOU? IN MY COUNTRY WE WHIP DISOBEDIENT SLAVES!


ONE DAY KING AHAB WENT TO SEE FARMER NABOTH ---
THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL VINEYARD, NABOTH — SELL IT TO ME!
NO, SIRE – IT BELONGED TO MY FAMILY FOR YEARS – I WON'T SELL AT ANY PRICE!

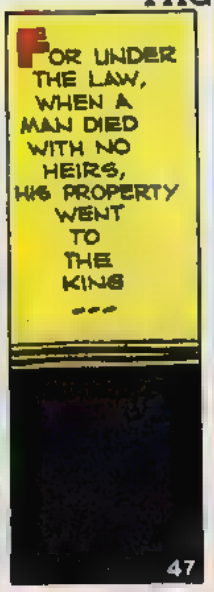

AHAB RETURNED HOME ANGRY AND WOULDN'T EAT ANY DINNER ---
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SULLEN, AHAB?
I ASKED NABOTH TO SELL ME HIS VINEYARD AND HE REFUSED — UNDER THE LAW I CAN'T GET THE LAND!

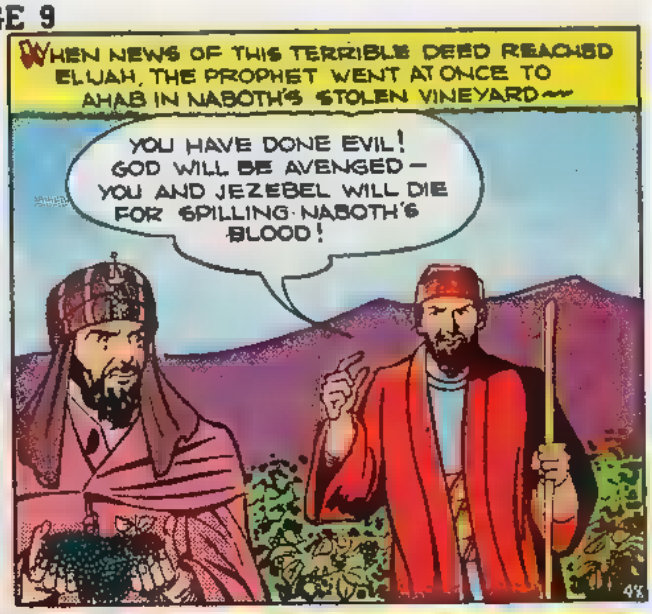
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A KING! COME ON, NOW, GET UP AND EAT YOUR DINNER -- I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET THE VINEYARD!


WICKED JEZEBEL MAKES A PLOT AGAINST NABOTH ---
and have two men bear witness against Naboth, saying he blasphemed against God and the King
44

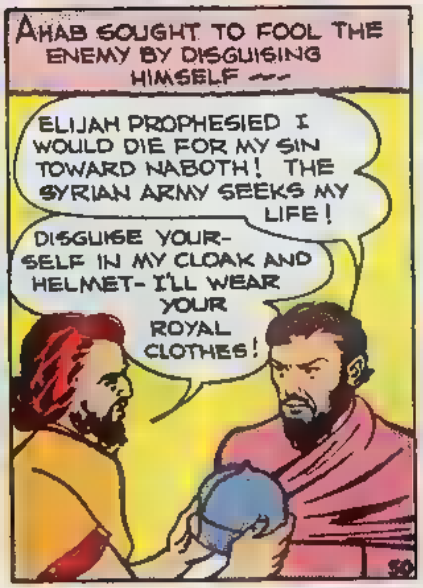

THE TWO MEN ACCUSE NABOTH IN PUBLIC ---
I ACCUSE NABOTH! HE BLASPHEMED GOD AND THE KING!
YES, TAKE HIM OUTSIDE THE CITY! STONE HIM!

NABOTH HAS BEEN STONED AND IS DEAD!
THERE NOW, AHAB! NABOTH IS DEAD— GO AND TAKE THE VINEYARD!
46

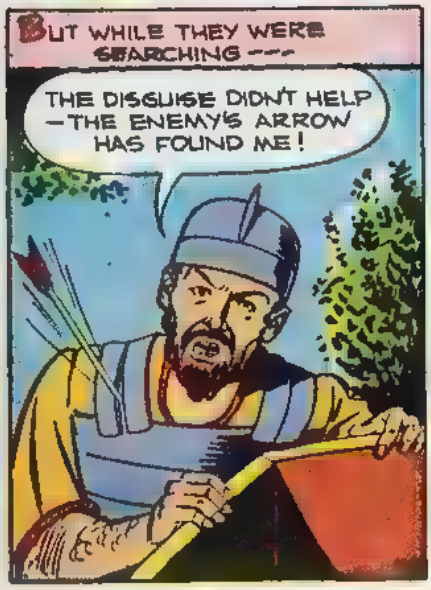

FOR UNDER THE LAW, WHEN A MAN DIED WITH NO HEIRS, HIS PROPERTY WENT TO THE KING ---
47


WHEN NEWS OF THIS TERRIBLE DEED REACHED ELIJAH, THE PROPHET WENT AT ONCE TO AHAB IN NABOTH'S STOLEN VINEYARD ---
YOU HAVE DONE EVIL! GOD WILL BE AVENGED— YOU AND JEZEBEL WILL DIE FOR SPILLING NABOTH'S BLOOD!
48

YEARS PASSED, AND THERE WAS WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA. THE KING OF THE SYRIANS SOUGHT AHAB'S LIFE
MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL—FIND KING AHAB AND DESTROY HIM!
49


AHAB SOUGHT TO FOOL THE ENEMY BY DISGUISING HIMSELF ---
ELIJAH PROPHESIED I WOULD DIE FOR MY SIN TOWARD NABOTH! THE SYRIAN ARMY SEEKS MY LIFE!
DISGUISE YOURSELF IN MY CLOAK AND HELMET- I'LL WEAR YOUR ROYAL CLOTHES!
50

AT FIRST THE ENEMY PURSUED THE SOLDIER DRESSED IN AHAB'S GARMENTS ---
LOOK! THAT'S NOT KING AHAB!
YOU'RE RIGHT -IT'S NOT HIS FACE!
ANOTHER MAN IS DRESSED IN HIS CLOTHES- COME, LET'S SEEK THE REAL KING!
51


BUT WHILE THEY WERE SEARCHING ---
THE DISGUISE DIDN'T HELP —THE ENEMY'S ARROW HAS FOUND ME!

I'VE FOUGHT ALL DAY— NOW I DIE! AND ELIJAH'S PROPHECY IS FULFILLED!

WICKED QUEEN JEZEBEL STILL LIVED BUT PUNISHMENT WAS TO COME TO HER TOO, AS ELIJAH HAD ALSO PROPHESIED, FOR ALL THE SUFFERING SHE HAD CAUSED TO INNOCENT PEOPLE ---
54

The Story of ELISHA

FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS (CHAPTERS 2-9) IN THE KING JAMES AND J.P.S.A. VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE; FROM THE FOURTH BOOK OF KINGS IN THE DOUAY VERSION.

*SPELLED ELISEUS IN THE DOUAY VERSION

WHEN ELIJAH'S EARTHLY WORK WAS DONE AND HE KNEW THAT GOD WAS ABOUT TO TAKE HIM UP TO HEAVEN, HE SET OUT FROM GILGAL WITH YOUNG ELISHA, WHO WAS TO TAKE OVER HIS WORK ---

GOD HAS COMMANDED ME TO GO TO THE RIVER JORDAN, ELISHA – BUT YOU DO NOT NEED TO COME!

AS THE LORD LIVES, MASTER, I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU!

WHEN THEY CAME TO THE RIVER JORDAN ELIJAH TOOK HIS MANTLE, ROLLED IT TOGETHER AND STRUCK THE WATERS. A MIRACLE HAPPENED – THE RIVER PARTED, AND THE TWO HOLY MEN PASSED OVER ON DRY GROUND ---

ELIJAH, BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN AWAY, OFFERED TO DO ONE LAST THING FOR ELISHA ---

I ONLY ASK YOU, ELIJAH, TO GIVE ME A DOUBLE PORTION OF YOUR SPIRIT!

YOU HAVE ASKED A HARD THING – NEVERTHELESS, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO SEE ME WHEN I AM TAKEN INTO HEAVEN, YOU SHALL BE GRANTED YOUR WISH!

A CHARIOT OF FIRE CAME IN A WHIRLWIND AND CARRIED ELIJAH AWAY. HE THREW HIS MANTLE TO ELISHA ---

MY FATHER, MY FATHER, I BEHOLD THE CHARIOT OF ISRAEL! MY PRAYER IS GRANTED! YOUR SPIRIT, ELIJAH, WILL NOW BE UPON ME!

ELISHA WITH ELIJAH'S MANTLE WENT TO JERICHO ---

THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH RESTS ON ELISHA!

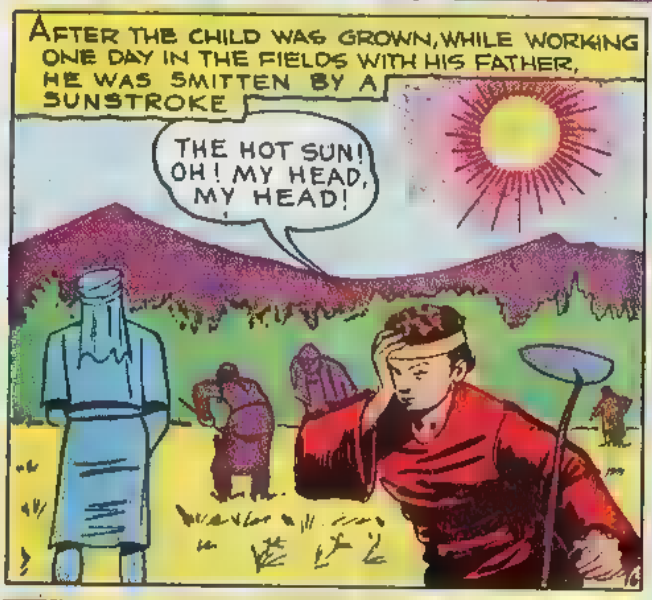
HE HAS THE POWER TO WORK MIRACLES!

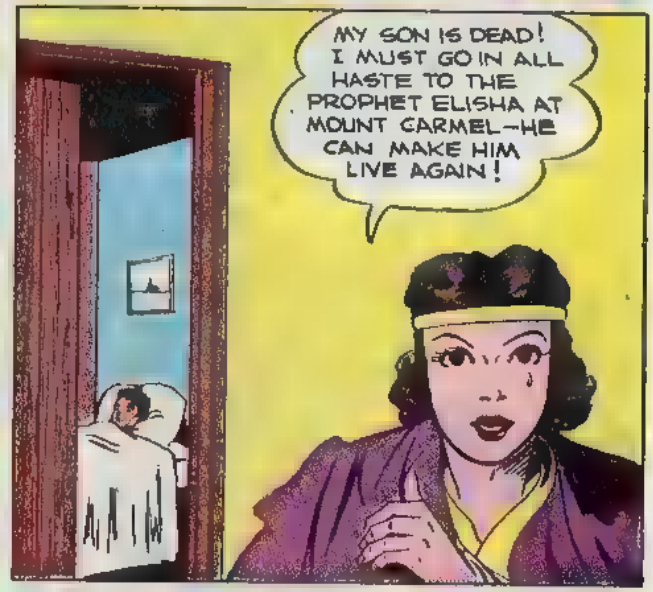
THE CITY OF JERICHO GOT ITS WATER FROM A SPRING WHICH WAS BITTER, AND WHICH MADE THE GROUND BARREN ---
PURIFY THE WATER FOR US, ELISHA!
BRING ME SALT!
ELISHA CAST THE SALT INTO THE SPRING — AND THE WATERS BECAME SWEET AND PLEASANT FROM THAT DAY ---
GOD HEALS THESE WATERS!
WONDERFUL PURE WATER!
ELISHA IS TRULY A WORKER OF MIRACLES!
ELISHA WENT ALONE TO THE COUNTRY TO MEDITATE ---
GOD HAS BLESSED ME THUS FAR, BUT I MUST NOT FORGET THE TASK ELIJAH LEFT ME — TO CRUSH WICKED JEZEBEL, THE QUEEN!
HENCE, ELISHA WENT ON TO THE TOWN OF SHUNEM ---
THERE GOES THE MAN OF GOD TO WHOM I GAVE BREAD THE OTHER DAY... HE PASSES BY OFTEN — LET US SUPPLY HIM WITH A ROOM AND A BED TO REST, A TABLE, STOOL AND CANDLESTICK!
AS YOU SAY, WIFE!
AND THAT LITTLE ROOM WILL BE YOURS, TO REST YOURSELF WHEN YOU COME HERE, HOLY MAN!
YOU ARE A KIND WOMAN!

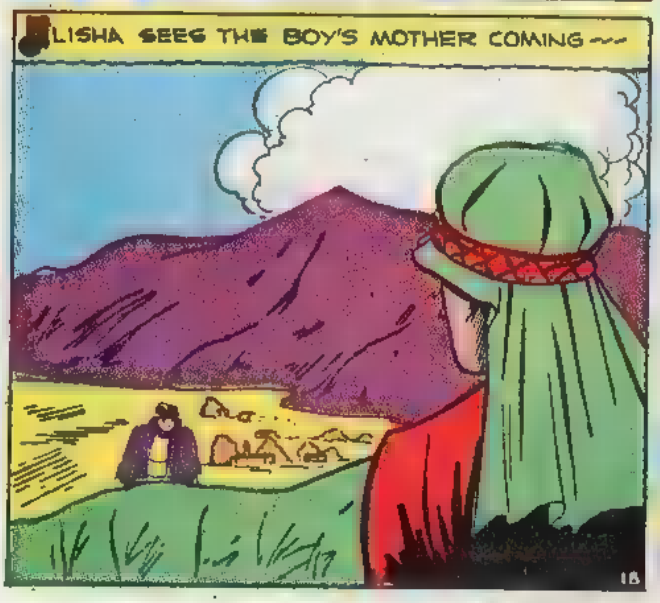
YOU HAVE DONE ALL THIS FOR ME—WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
PRAY THAT I MAY HAVE A CHILD!

A SON AND HEIR SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOU!
DO NOT SAY THIS AND DECEIVE ME, ELISHA!

THE SHUNAMMITE WOMAN DID HAVE A BOY CHILD, AS ELISHA HAD PROMISED!
I DID WRONG TO DOUBT ELISHA!
HE IS A GREAT AND GOOD PROPHET!


AFTER THE CHILD WAS GROWN, WHILE WORKING ONE DAY IN THE FIELDS WITH HIS FATHER, HE WAS SMITTEN BY A SUNSTROKE
THE HOT SUN! OH! MY HEAD, MY HEAD!


MY SON IS DEAD! I MUST GO IN ALL HASTE TO THE PROPHET ELISHA AT MOUNT CARMEL—HE CAN MAKE HIM LIVE AGAIN!


ELISHA SEES THE BOY'S MOTHER COMING ~~~
18

MY SON HAS DIED! HELP ME, ELISHA!
FEAR NOT, AND GO HOME, I WILL FOLLOW YOU!

I WILL PRAY TO GOD TO RESTORE LIFE TO THIS CHILD BECAUSE OF HIS MOTHER'S GOODNESS!
20

ELISHA WORKED A MIRACLE ~~
HERE IS YOUR SON!
21

I'M WELL NOW, MOTHER!
I KNEW ELISHA COULD SAVE YOU!
22

IN GILGAL, THERE WAS A GREAT FAMINE WHEN ELISHA AND HIS SERVANT GEHAZI ARRIVED THERE ~~
ELISHA, HELP US!
WE'RE STARVING!
WORK A MIRACLE AND GET FOOD FOR US!
23

MEANWHILE, MEN BROUGHT IN WILD GOURDS FROM THE FIELDS TO COOK FOR FOOD —BUT THE GOURDS WERE POISONOUS ~~
O ELISHA, THERE IS DEATH IN THIS POT! THOUGH WE STARVE, WE CANNOT EAT THESE POISONOUS HERBS!
BRING ME A BOWL OF MEAL!

NOW IT IS NO LONGER POISONOUS! GIVE IT TO THE PEOPLE, THAT THEY MAY EAT!
A MIRACLE!

AND THE PEOPLE WERE FED! ELISHA HAD NEUTRALIZED THE POISON IN THE HERBS SO THAT THERE WAS NOT HARM BUT NOURISHMENT IN THEM!
26
LATER IN THE FAMINE A MAN CAME BRINGING TWENTY LOAVES OF BREAD FROM ANOTHER TOWN AS A GIFT TO ELISHA ---
GIVE IT TO THEM! FOR GOD HAS SAID, "THEY SHALL EAT AND THERE SHALL BE FOOD LEFT!"
WITH THIS LITTLE BIT OF FOOD, HOW AM I TO FEED A WHOLE CITY, ELISHA? BUT I OBEY!
AND SO IT PROVED-FOR BY A MIRACLE, THE SMALL BASKET OF BREAD WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE HUNGRY PEOPLE OF GILGAL ---
NOW IN SYRIA LIVED A GREAT GENERAL, NAAMAN-A POWERFUL WARRIOR, BUT HE WAS AFFLICTED WITH LEPROSY ---
I'M IN DESPAIR! I CAN CONQUER ARMIES, BUT NOT THIS DISEASE OF LEPROSY!
IN MY HOME IN ISRAEL THERE IS A GREAT PROPHET, ELISHA... I KNOW HE CAN HEAL NAAMAN!
29
SO NAAMAN WENT TO THE LAND OF ISRAEL TO SEE ELISHA ---
ELISHA SAYS IF YOU WILL DIP SEVEN TIMES IN THE RIVER JORDAN, YOU SHALL BE HEALED!
WHAT KIND OF PROPHET IS THIS? I CAN WASH IN BETTER RIVERS IN DAMASCUS, MY HOME-LAND!
30
BUT, GENERAL, TRY IT AT LEAST!
IF HE HAD TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING HARD, YOU'D HAVE DONE IT!
WHY NOT DO THIS EASY THING?
31
LATER...
FIVE TIMES I HAVE DIPPED AND I'M NOT HEALED!
ONLY TWICE MORE, NAAMAN!

AND WHEN HE HAD BATHED SEVEN TIMES AS ELISHA HAD SAID, NAAMAN WAS HEALED ////

33

NOW I KNOW THERE IS NO GOD BUT THE GOD OF ISRAEL... LET ME MAKE A GIFT TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION!

I WANT NOTHING FOR MYSELF... I WAS ONLY USING GOD'S POWER TO HEAL YOU!

BUT GEHAZI, THE SERVANT OF ELISHA, THOUGHT THAT SOME REWARD SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM NAAMAN FOR HIS HEALING ---

ELISHA LET NAAMAN OFF WITHOUT PAYING – WHY SHOULDN'T I GO AFTER HIM AND GET SOMETHING FOR MYSELF?

GEHAZI CHASES AFTER NAAMAN'S PARTY ---

WHAT IS IT, GEHAZI? WHY DO YOU COME AFTER ME?

ELISHA CHANGED HIS MIND – HE TOLD ME TO ASK YOU FOR SILVER AND GARMENTS!

GEHAZI GOES HOME, HIS MEN CARRYING THE GIFTS.

NAAMAN GAVE ME RICH PRESENTS! BUT I WON'T TELL ELISHA... WASN'T HE A FOOL! HE COULD HAVE HAD ALL THIS!

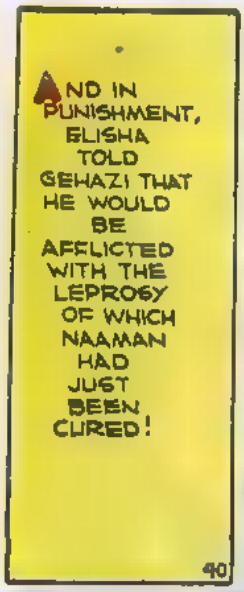
AT HOME AGAIN, GEHAZI HIDES THE GIFTS WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING TO ELISHA – BUT, BEING A PROPHET, ELISHA KNOWS!

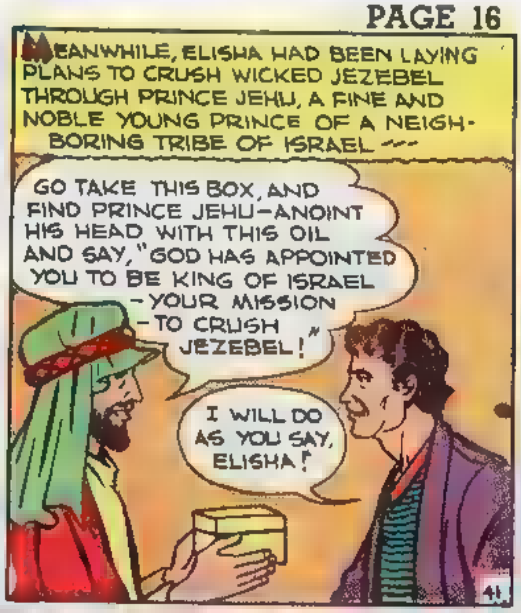
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, GEHAZI?

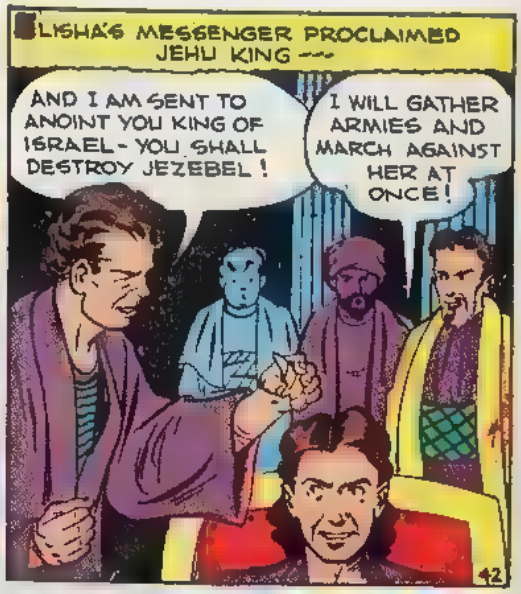
I-I-OH, I HAVEN'T BEEN ANYWHERE, ELISHA!

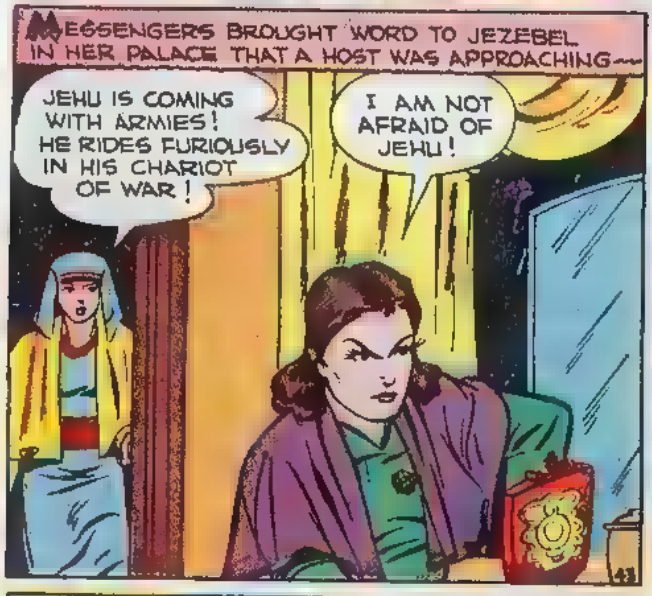
I WONDER HOW HE KNOWS?

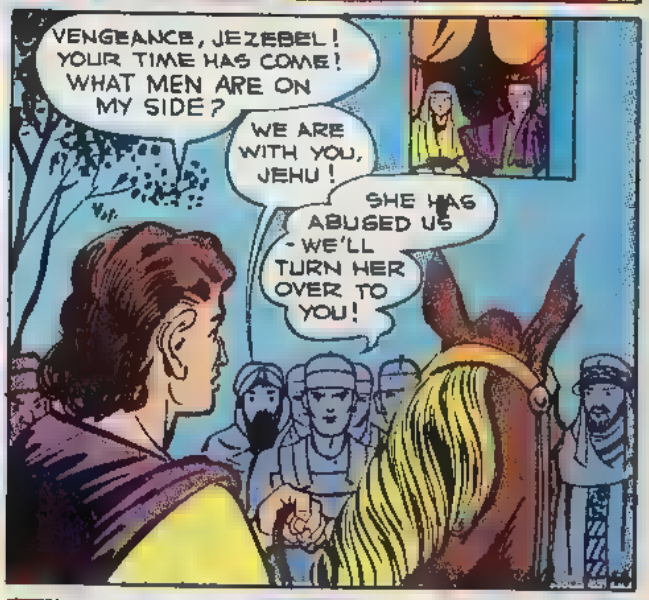
DID YOU THINK I WOULD NOT KNOW, GEHAZI? IS THIS A TIME TO BE THINKING OF YOURSELF, OF GETTING MONEY AND OF EARTHLY THINGS? I HEALED NAAMAN THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD, AND YOU WANT TO PROFIT SELFISHLY BY IT!


AND IN PUNISHMENT, ELISHA TOLD GEHAZI THAT HE WOULD BE AFFLICTED WITH THE LEPROSY OF WHICH NAAMAN HAD JUST BEEN CURED!
40


MEANWHILE, ELISHA HAD BEEN LAYING PLANS TO CRUSH WICKED JEZEBEL THROUGH PRINCE JEHU, A FINE AND NOBLE YOUNG PRINCE OF A NEIGHBORING TRIBE OF ISRAEL ---
GO TAKE THIS BOX, AND FIND PRINCE JEHU—ANOINT HIS HEAD WITH THIS OIL AND SAY, "GOD HAS APPOINTED YOU TO BE KING OF ISRAEL —YOUR MISSION —TO CRUSH JEZEBEL!"
I WILL DO AS YOU SAY, ELISHA!
41


ELISHA'S MESSENGER PROCLAIMED JEHU KING ---
AND I AM SENT TO ANOINT YOU KING OF ISRAEL - YOU SHALL DESTROY JEZEBEL!
I WILL GATHER ARMIES AND MARCH AGAINST HER AT ONCE!
42


MESSENGERS BROUGHT WORD TO JEZEBEL IN HER PALACE THAT A HOST WAS APPROACHING ---
JEHU IS COMING WITH ARMIES! HE RIDES FURIOUSLY IN HIS CHARIOT OF WAR!
I AM NOT AFRAID OF JEHU!
43


VENGEANCE, JEZEBEL! YOUR TIME HAS COME! WHAT MEN ARE ON MY SIDE?
WE ARE WITH YOU, JEHU!
SHE HAS ABUSED US - WE'LL TURN HER OVER TO YOU!

LATER...
NOW JEZEBEL IS DEAD! SHE WILL DO NO MORE EVIL!
MY MISSION IS DONE! THROUGH YOU I HAVE DESTROYED FOREVER THE POWER OF THE WICKED QUEEN ... ISRAEL IS FREE!
45

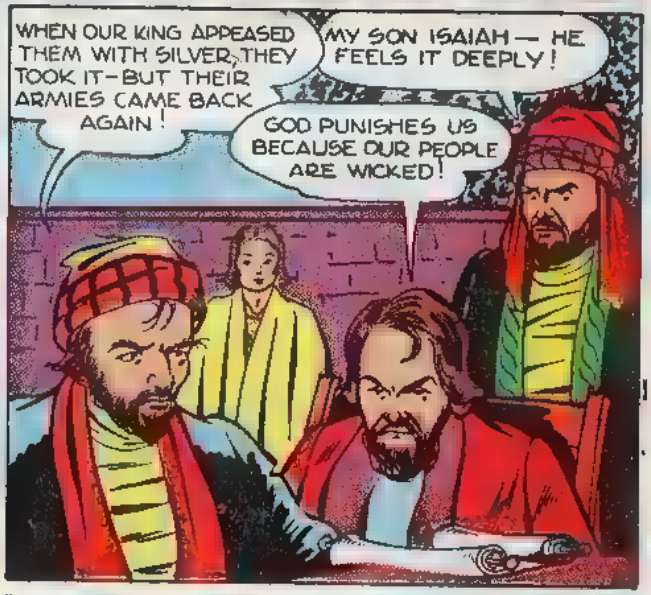
I LEAVE YOU— RULE WISELY, JEHU! I HAVE FINISHED MY WORK—BUT IF EVER YOU NEED ME, I WILL RETURN!
YOU HAVE FREED ISRAEL FROM A WICKED WOMAN. I PROMISE TO RULE WISELY, TO OBEY YOU, AND TO FOLLOW GOD'S WILL!
SO ELISHA COMPLETED THE TASK GOD HAD GIVEN HIM, AND THE LAND OF ISRAEL WAS AT PEACE FOR MANY YEARS UNDER KING JEHU ---
46

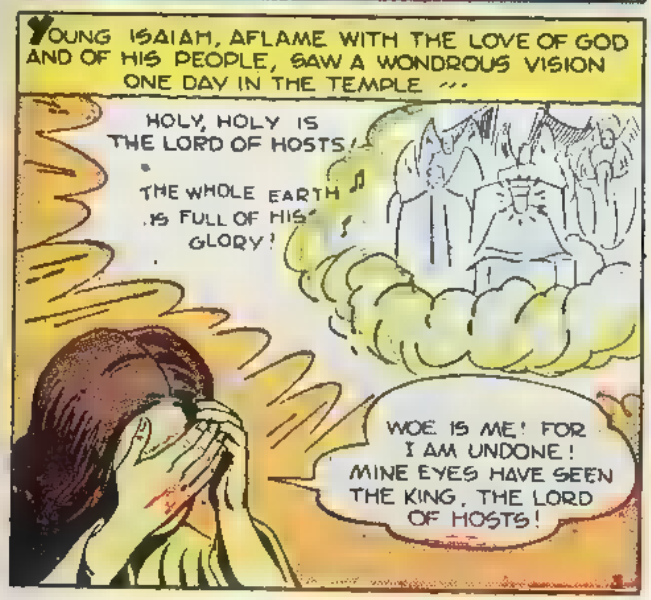
The Story of ISAIAH*

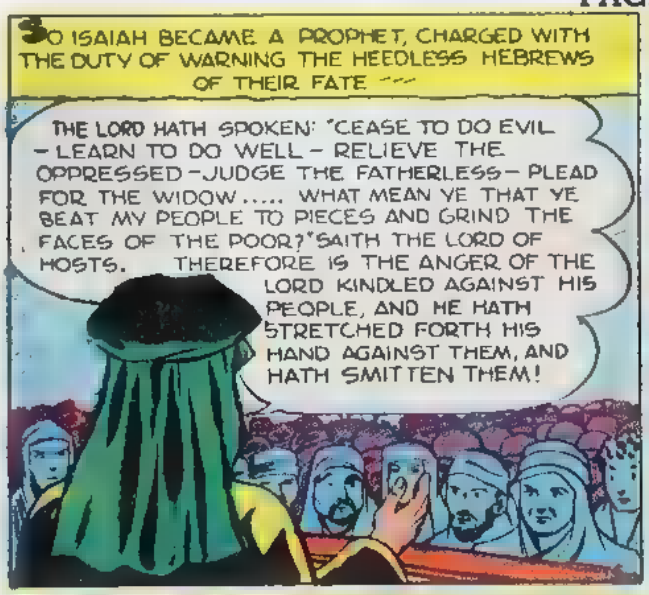
A GREAT PROPHET OF THE JEWS

FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
IN ALL THREE VERSIONS

*SPELLED ISAIAS IN THE DOUAY VERSION





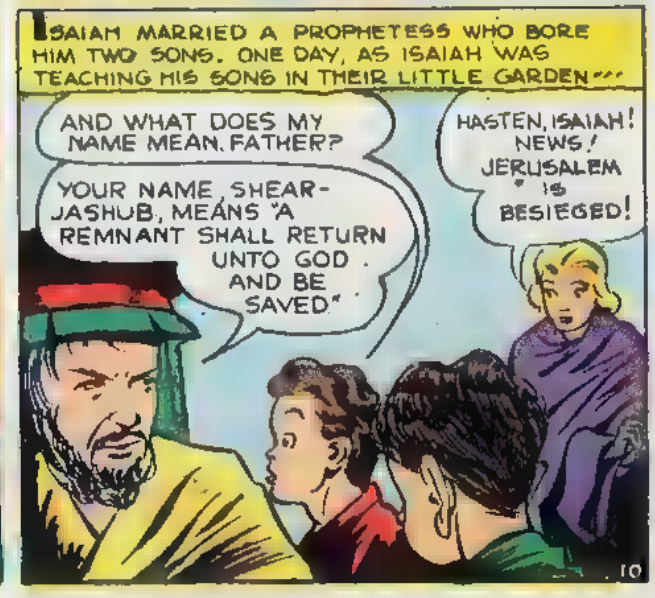

SO ISAIAH BECAME A PROPHET, CHARGED WITH THE DUTY OF WARNING THE HEEDLESS HEBREWS OF THEIR FATE ...
THE LORD HATH SPOKEN: "CEASE TO DO EVIL – LEARN TO DO WELL – RELIEVE THE OPPRESSED – JUDGE THE FATHERLESS – PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW..... WHAT MEAN YE THAT YE BEAT MY PEOPLE TO PIECES AND GRIND THE FACES OF THE POOR?" SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS. THEREFORE IS THE ANGER OF THE LORD KINDLED AGAINST HIS PEOPLE, AND HE HATH STRETCHED FORTH HIS HAND AGAINST THEM, AND HATH SMITTEN THEM!

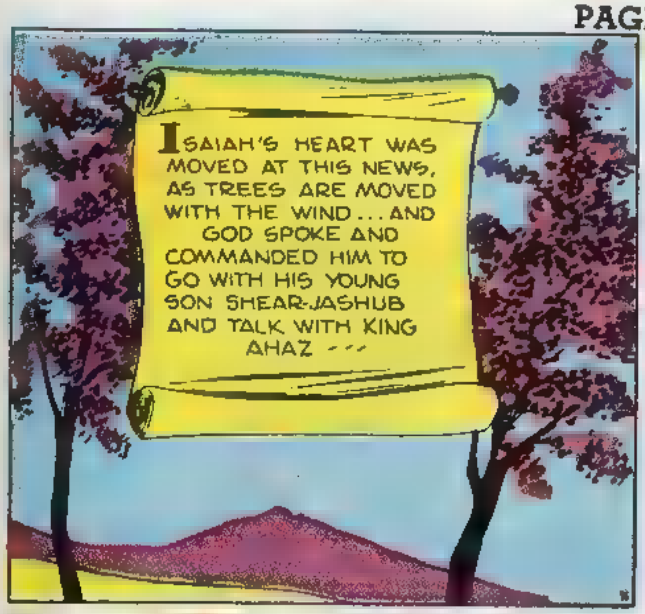
BUT LIKE MANY ANOTHER PROPHET, ISAIAH WAS WITHOUT HONOR IN HIS OWN COUNTRY ...
DOOM IS APPROACHING – IF ONLY I COULD MAKE MY PEOPLE SEE!
I HAVE NO TIME!
WE'LL BE LATE TO THE FEAST!

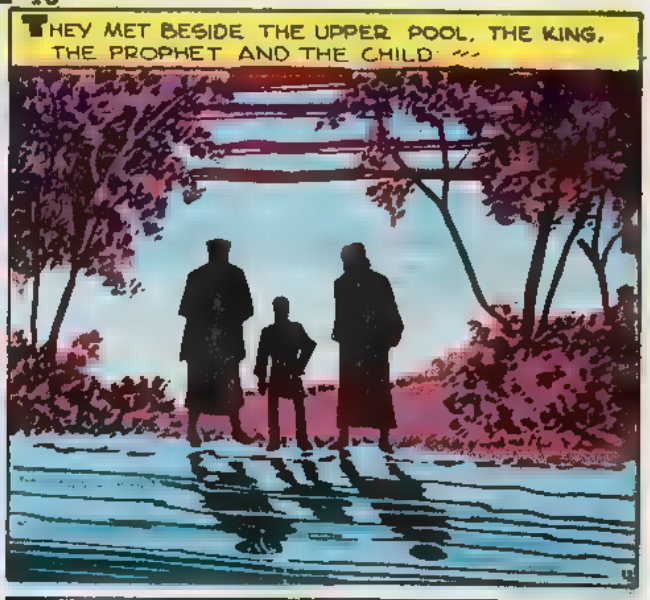
MEANWHILE THE GREAT ASSYRIAN ARMIES UNDER TIGLATH-PILESER WERE ON THE MARCH, MOVING ALWAYS NEARER TO JERUSALEM ...
NOTHING WILL STOP US! WE'LL CONQUER THE WHOLE WORLD!
SOON WE'LL VANQUISH THE HEBREWS AND MAKE THEM OUR SLAVES!
7

ISAIAH CONTINUED TO TALK TO HIS PEOPLE ...
WOE UNTO THEM THAT CALL EVIL, GOOD; AND GOOD, EVIL! WOE UNTO THEM THAT ARE WISE IN THEIR OWN EYES! THEY HAVE CAST AWAY THE LAW OF THE LORD OF HOSTS! THEREFORE IS THE ANGER OF THE LORD KINDLED AGAINST HIS PEOPLE – HOWL YE! FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND, AND HE WILL PUNISH THE WORLD FOR ITS EVIL!
8

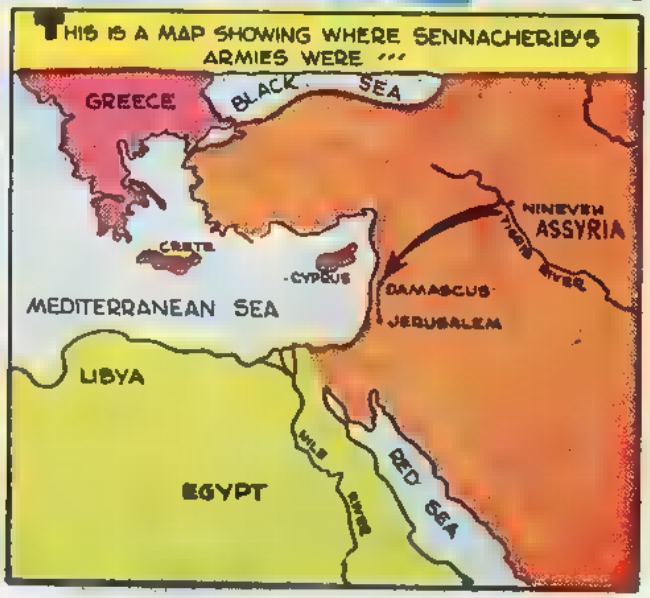
MEANWHILE, TWO NEIGHBORING RULERS, KING PEKAH AND KING REZIN, SOUGHT TO MAKE A DEFENSE PACT AGAINST THE ASSYRIANS AND INVITED KING AHAZ OF JUDAH TO JOIN THEM ...
KING AHAZ REFUSES TO JOIN YOU!
HE'S A COWARD!
WE'LL MARCH OUR ARMIES AGAINST JERUSALEM AND FORCE HIM TO JOIN US!


ISAIAH MARRIED A PROPHETESS WHO BORE HIM TWO SONS. ONE DAY, AS ISAIAH WAS TEACHING HIS SONS IN THEIR LITTLE GARDEN ...
AND WHAT DOES MY NAME MEAN, FATHER?
YOUR NAME, SHEAR-JASHUB, MEANS "A REMNANT SHALL RETURN UNTO GOD AND BE SAVED."
HASTEN, ISAIAH! NEWS! JERUSALEM IS BESIEGED!
10

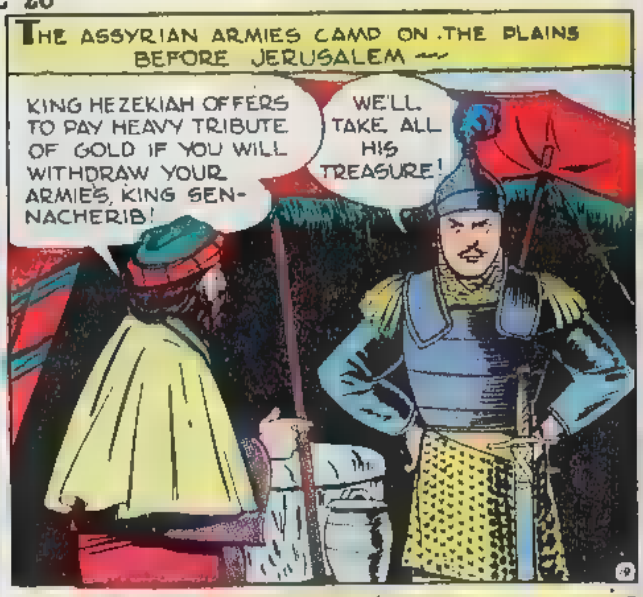




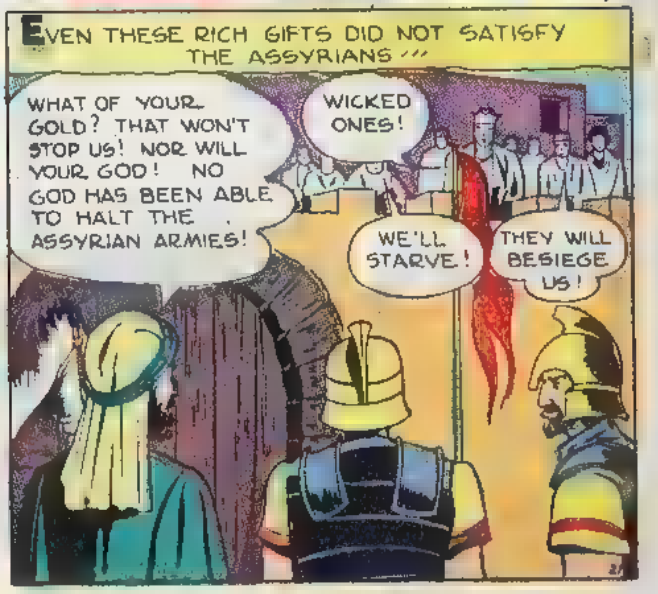
DESPITE AHAZ AND HIS WEAK WILL, THE THREAT TO JERUSALEM WAS WITHDRAWN THAT TIME AND THE CITY WAS SAFE ..... FINALLY AHAZ, WHO HAD BEEN A WICKED KING, DIED, AND HEZEKIAH, HIS SON – A GOOD MAN – BECAME THE RULER. OVER HEZEKIAH, TOO, HUNG THE SHADOW OF THE POWERFUL NATION ASSYRIA, WITH ITS HUGE AND GREEDY ARMIES, NOW LED BY A NEW KING – SENNACHERIB.

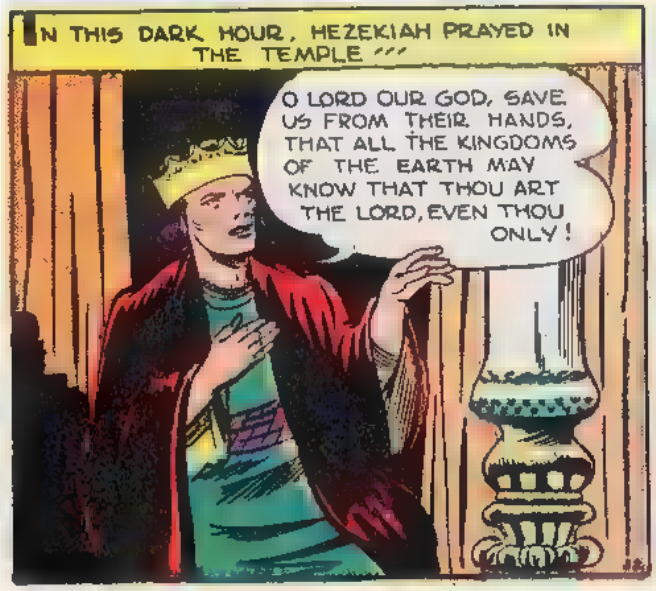


WE MUST HAVE HELP! I WILL MAKE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE EGYPTIANS!
WOE TO THEM THAT TRUST IN CHARIOTS AND HORSEMEN, BUT LOOK NOT TO THE LORD. GOD WILL PROTECT JERUSALEM. HAS HE NOT TOLD US, IN QUIETNESS AND IN CONFIDENCE SHALL BE YOUR STRENGTH?

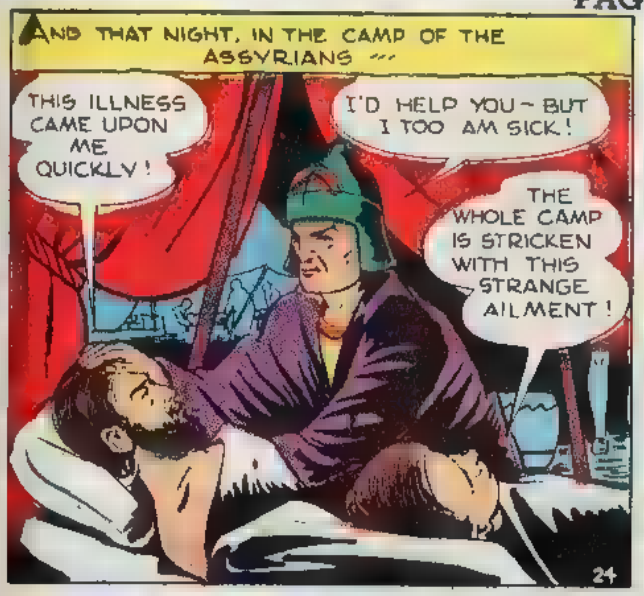

THE ASSYRIAN ARMIES CAMP ON THE PLAINS BEFORE JERUSALEM ~~
KING HEZEKIAH OFFERS TO PAY HEAVY TRIBUTE OF GOLD IF YOU WILL WITHDRAW YOUR ARMIES, KING SENNACHERIB!
WE'LL TAKE ALL HIS TREASURE!

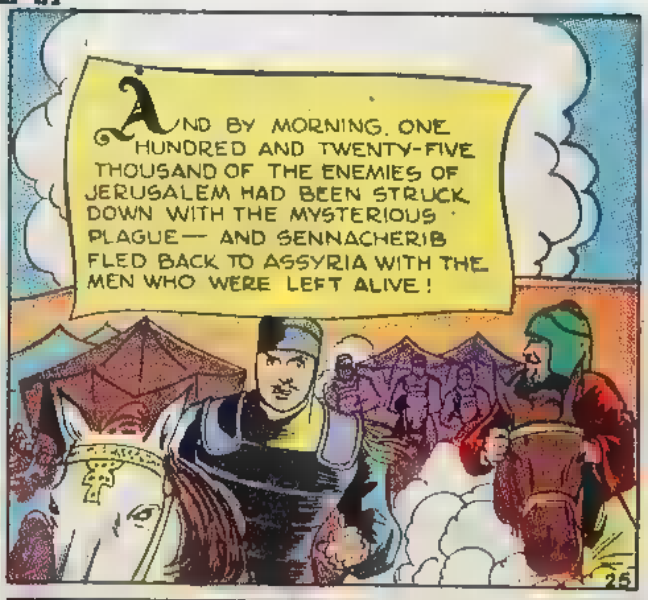
IN JERUSALEM, THE PEOPLE COLLECT GOLD ~~
I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN DO THIS!
THE ASSYRIANS WILL KILL US IF WE DO NOT GIVE THEM ALL OUR GOLD, EVEN THE GOLDEN ORNAMENTS OF OUR HOLY TEMPLE!


EVEN THESE RICH GIFTS DID NOT SATISFY THE ASSYRIANS ~~
WHAT OF YOUR GOLD? THAT WON'T STOP US! NOR WILL YOUR GOD! NO GOD HAS BEEN ABLE TO HALT THE ASSYRIAN ARMIES!
WICKED ONES!
WE'LL STARVE!
THEY WILL BESIEGE US!

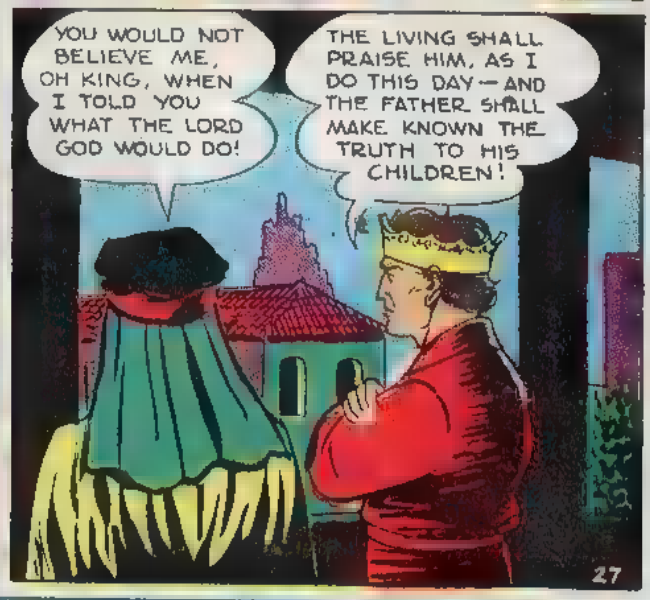

IN THIS DARK HOUR, HEZEKIAH PRAYED IN THE TEMPLE ~~
O LORD OUR GOD, SAVE US FROM THEIR HANDS, THAT ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH MAY KNOW THAT THOU ART THE LORD, EVEN THOU ONLY!

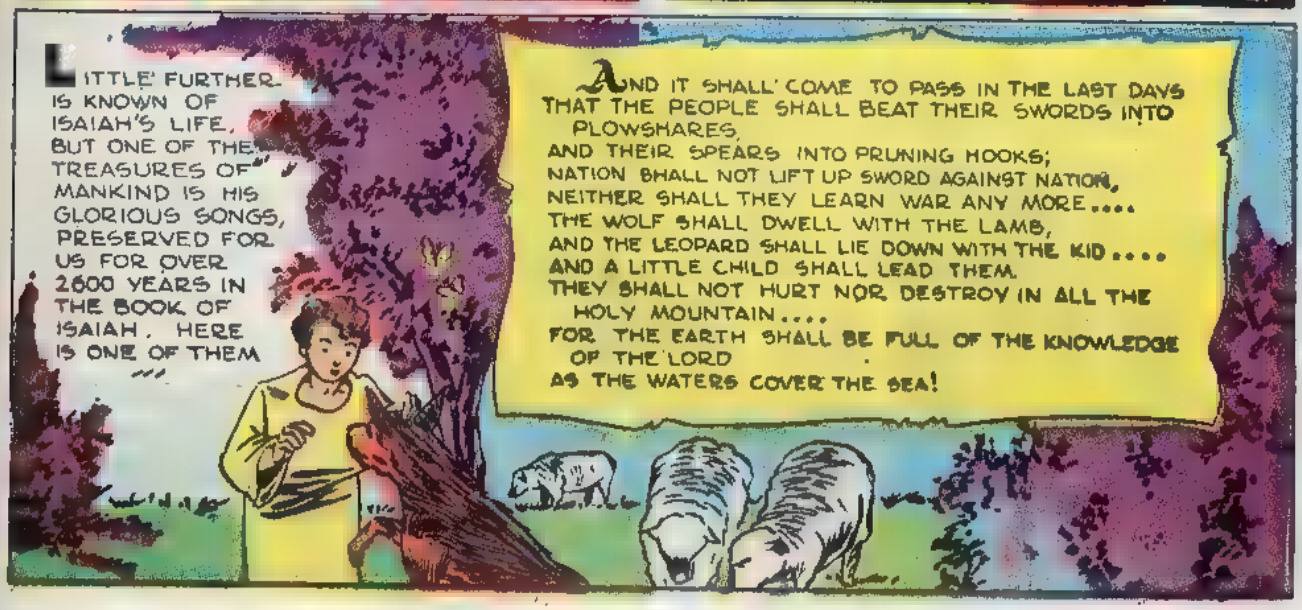
RETURNED TO THE PALACE, HEZEKIAH RECEIVES A MESSAGE FROM ISAIAH ~~
"THEREFORE THUS SAITH THE LORD CONCERNING THE KING OF ASSYRIA: HE SHALL NOT COME INTO THIS CITY, NOR SHOOT AN ARROW THERE! FOR I WILL DEFEND THIS CITY TO SAVE IT, FOR MY OWN SAKE."


AND THAT NIGHT, IN THE CAMP OF THE ASSYRIANS ~~
THIS ILLNESS CAME UPON ME QUICKLY!
I'D HELP YOU - BUT I TOO AM SICK!
THE WHOLE CAMP IS STRICKEN WITH THIS STRANGE AILMENT!
24


AND BY MORNING, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND OF THE ENEMIES OF JERUSALEM HAD BEEN STRUCK DOWN WITH THE MYSTERIOUS PLAGUE— AND SENNACHERIB FLED BACK TO ASSYRIA WITH THE MEN WHO WERE LEFT ALIVE!
25

A YEAR LATER ~~
JUST ONE YEAR TODAY, OH KING, SINCE GOD DELIVERED US!
NEWS COMES THAT EVEN SENNACHERIB IS NOW DEAD— KILLED BY HIS TWO JEALOUS SONS IN THE CITY OF NINEVEH!


YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE ME, OH KING, WHEN I TOLD YOU WHAT THE LORD GOD WOULD DO!
THE LIVING SHALL PRAISE HIM, AS I DO THIS DAY— AND THE FATHER SHALL MAKE KNOWN THE TRUTH TO HIS CHILDREN!
27

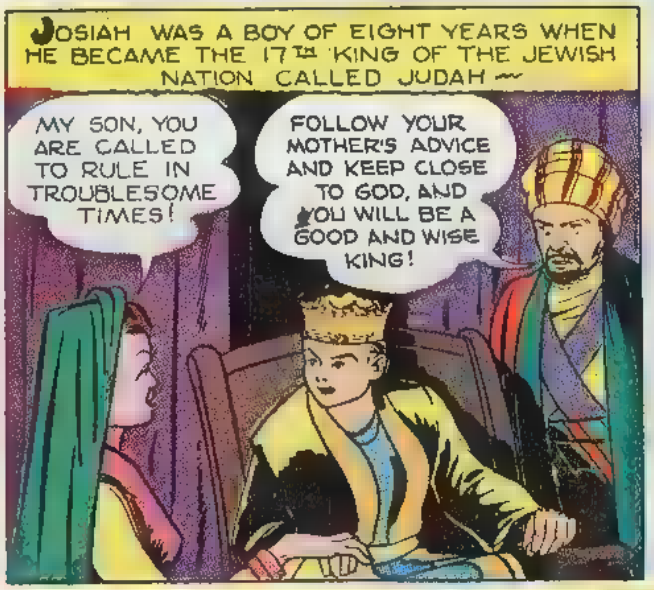

LITTLE FURTHER IS KNOWN OF ISAIAH'S LIFE, BUT ONE OF THE TREASURES OF MANKIND IS HIS GLORIOUS SONGS, PRESERVED FOR US FOR OVER 2600 YEARS IN THE BOOK OF ISAIAH. HERE IS ONE OF THEM ~~
AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS THAT THE PEOPLE SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES,
AND THEIR SPEARS INTO PRUNING HOOKS;
NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION,
NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE....
THE WOLF SHALL DWELL WITH THE LAMB,
AND THE LEOPARD SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE KID....
AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM.
THEY SHALL NOT HURT NOR DESTROY IN ALL THE HOLY MOUNTAIN....
FOR THE EARTH SHALL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD
AS THE WATERS COVER THE SEA!

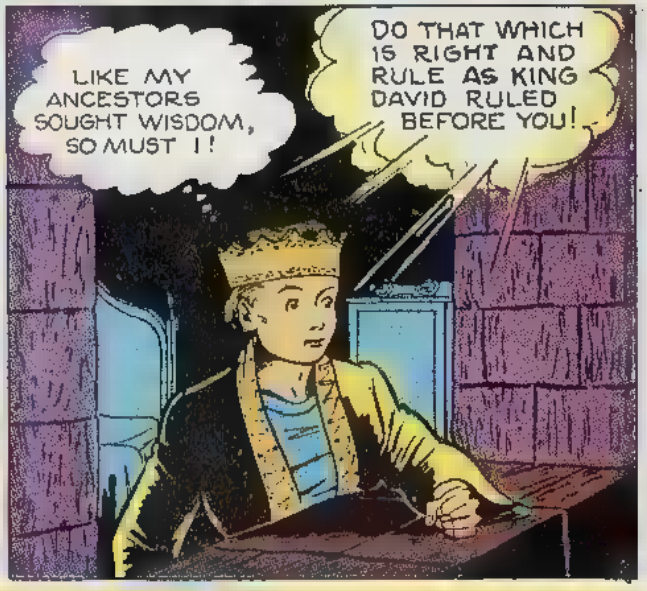
The Story of JOSIAH*

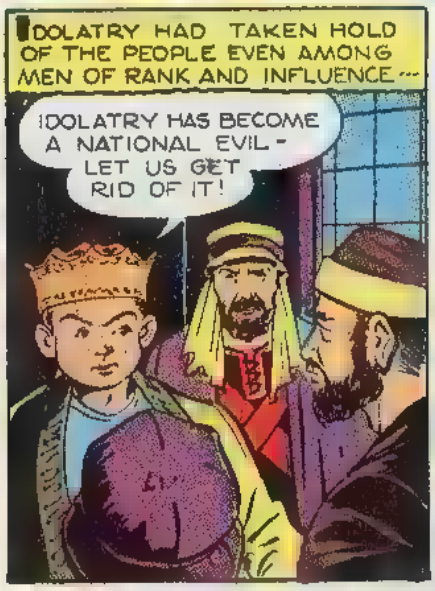
THE YOUNG KING OF THE JEWS

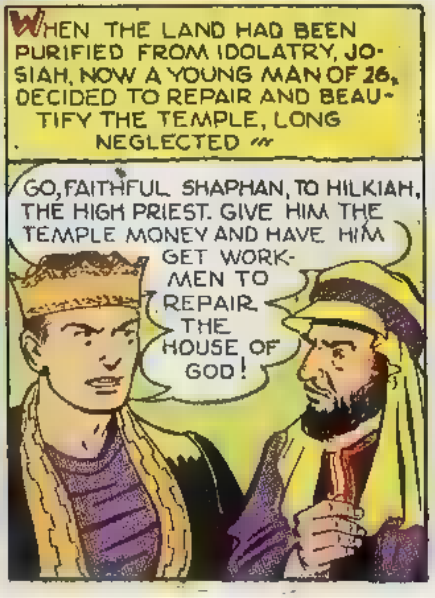
FROM 2ND KINGS, CHAPTERS 22 AND 23 AND 2ND CHRONICLES, CHAPTERS 34 THROUGH 36 IN THE KING JAMES AND J.P.S.A. VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE. FROM 4TH KINGS AND 2ND PARALIPOMENON IN THE DOUAY VERSION.

* SPELLED JOSIAS IN THE DOUAY VERSION









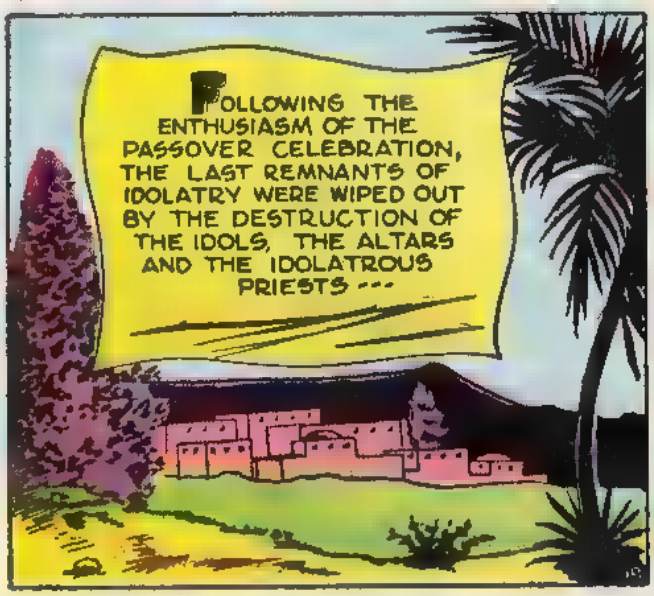
LONG AGO, FOR FEAR OF ENEMIES, A SACRED BOOK WAS HIDDEN IN JERUSALEM'S TEMPLE AND FORGOTTEN. BUT ONE DAY...
6
THIS WAS FOUND IN THE WALLS!
WE CANNOT READ, BUT YOU, HILKIAH, OUR HIGH PRIEST, CAN!
LET ME SEE IT!
THIS IS THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY, LONG LOST! I WILL HAVE SHAPHAN TAKE IT TO KING JOSIAH!
HILKIAH, WHAT IS IT? I'M ON MY WAY TO THE KING NOW!
I MUST READ THIS FIRST – IT IS ASTONISHING! THE OLD LAWS OF ISRAEL FOUND! JOSIAH WILL BE SURPRISED – THE KINGDOM'S LAWS HAVE BEEN MISCONSTRUED!
SO SHAPHAN WENT BEFORE JOSIAH---
THESE ARE THE AUTHENTIC LAWS OF MOSES, SIRE!
HOW DISGRACEFULLY WE HAVE NEGLECTED THIS BOOK! I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT IMMEDIATELY!
10
I WILL PRESENT THIS GREAT DISCOVERY TO OUR PEOPLE – BUT FIRST WE MUST PRAY AND ASK GOD'S GUIDANCE!
I SHALL CALL THE CHIEF MEN AND PRIESTS TOGETHER, AND WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE WE WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!
11
THE PRIESTS DECIDE TO CONSULT A HOLY AND INSPIRED WOMAN NAMED HULDAH
12
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THE REAL LAWS MUST BE PROCLAIMED TO THE PEOPLE AND OBEYED! TELL KING JOSIAH THAT THE JUDGMENTS AGAINST THE DISOBEDIENT WILL NOT FALL UPON HIM. HE IS TRYING TO SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY!
13

TO MAKE THE EVENT IMPRESSIVE, JOSIAH DECIDED TO RENEW THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSOVER FEAST, A CUSTOM LONG NEGLECTED ---
SEND WORD TO ALL THE PEOPLE IN JUDEA AND ISRAEL TO COME TOGETHER IN THE RESTORED TEMPLE TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD!

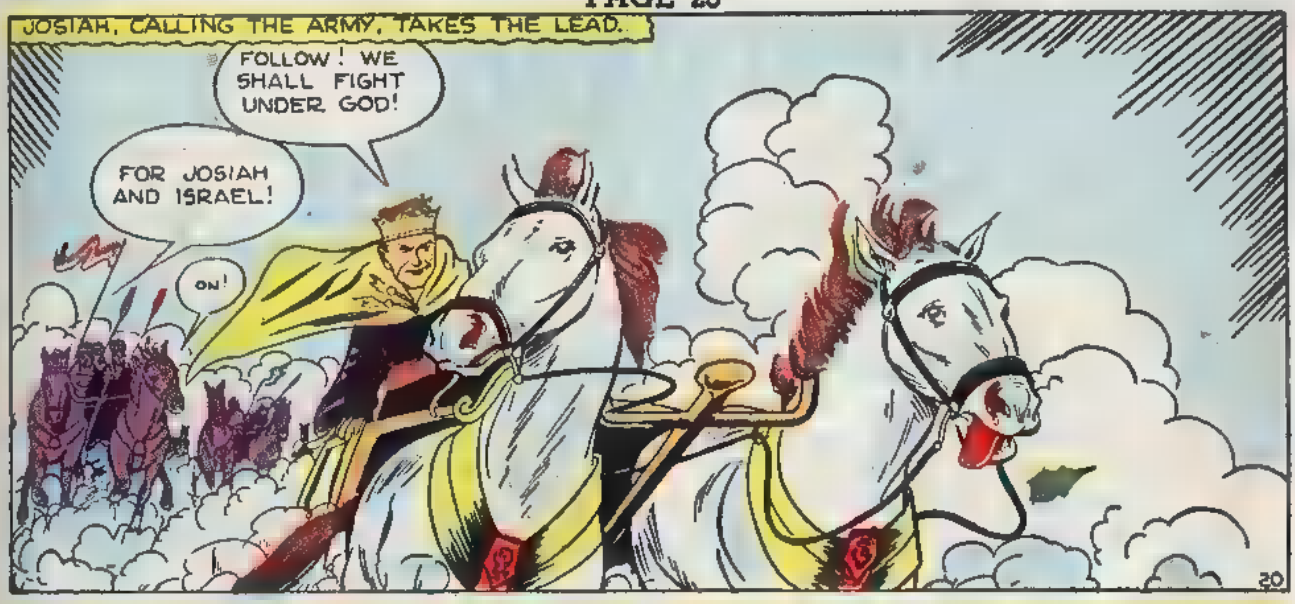
AN EIGHT-DAY CELEBRATION WAS HELD WITH SINGING AND FESTIVITY BY MORE THAN 30,000 PEOPLE, DURING WHICH TIME JOSIAH READ FROM THE LOST BOOK ---
THESE COMMANDMENTS ARE THE SACRED WORDS OF MOSES. LET US PROMISE TO OBEY THEM!
GOD GRANT WE NEVER NEGLECT THE BOOK AGAIN!

THE CELEBRATION INCLUDED GREAT FEASTS FROM THE KING'S ROYAL BOUNTY OF SUPPLIES ---

THIS IS THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE. THE LAWS OF GOD HAVE NOW BEEN PUT TO WORK. OUR NATION IS BEING UNITED AS IN THE DAYS OF DAVID!


FOLLOWING THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION, THE LAST REMNANTS OF IDOLATRY WERE WIPED OUT BY THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IDOLS, THE ALTARS AND THE IDOLATROUS PRIESTS ---

BUT TIMES WERE BAD—EGYPT THREATENED ---
THE POWER OF EGYPT IS COMING! A VAST ARMY!
WE'LL GO TO MEET THEM!



AFTER JOSIAH'S DEATH AND ISRAEL'S DEFEAT, JOSIAH'S SON, JEHOAHAZ, TOOK HIS PLACE ON THE THRONE.

23

BUT AFTER THREE MONTHS JEHOAHAZ WAS IMPRISONED BY PHARAOH-NECHOH, AND ELIAKIM, ANOTHER SON OF JOSIAH, WAS PLACED UPON THE THRONE AND RENAMED JEHOIAKIM.

25

The Story of Job

Who Stood the Test of Trouble

FROM THE BOOK OF JOB FOUND IN ALL THREE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

IN THE LAND of Uz there lived Job, a very wealthy and good man who feared God. His wealth consisted of 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 she-asses. This was considered a fortune in those days. With his wife and family of seven sons and three daughters, Job was regarded as the most influential of all the men of the east.

But there came a time when Job's goodness was questioned, for the wealthy tribesman had won the enmity of Satan. And Satan spoke toward God in the heavens.

"Job is good, but why?" Satan inquired sneeringly. "You, God, have given him the blessing of a large family and great wealth. But if you bring trouble to him, Job will curse you to your face."

Then the Lord God did a strange thing: He permitted Satan to test Job for his goodness, with one calamity after another. Satan was to trouble Job beyond endurance. Satan would try to prove that when a man had trouble, and everything was taken away, he would no longer trust and love the Lord.

First a messenger came to Job saying that the Sabeans, the vicious raiders from the south, had killed his herdsmen and his oxen and asses. Only this one messenger had escaped alive.

Next, a vast fire spread over Job's belongings, and his sheep and shepherds were burned to death —all but a single shepherd who, as a messenger of the tragedy, came running to inform Job of what had happened.

But that was not yet the end of the troubles. Chaldean bandits from the east, inspired by Satan, set upon Job's fine camels, driving them all away and killing all their attendants except the one who came to tell Job.

When all these things had taken place, Job found that he was now a poor man. The calamities brought him great grief. While he was bemoaning his losses, yet another tragedy happened.

A messenger came to him, frightened and terrified, and said, "A hurricane has come and blown down one of the houses in which your sons and daughters were having a party—and all of them have been killed!"

Job could not withhold his grief. Yet his faith was not broken, nor did he once condemn and defy the Lord God! Instead, he said, "Naked came I into the world, and naked shall I depart. The Lord gave and the Lord taketh away. Blessed is the name of the Lord!"

And Satan was angry because of his repeated failures. But Satan still persisted. He argued that if Job suffered physical pain, the once-rich man would at last curse his God.

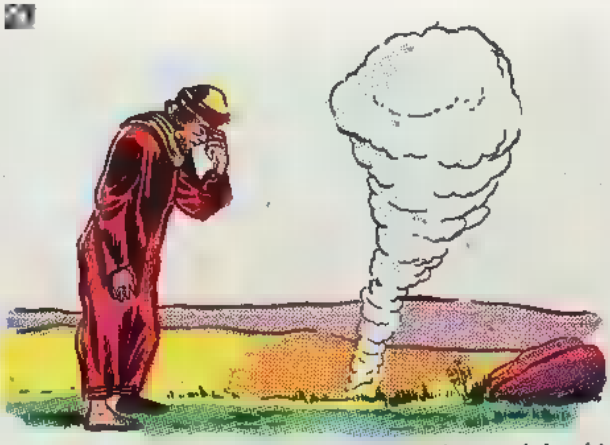
God allowed a plague of boils to cover Job's whole body. Job's wife, the only member of his family still alive, came to him saying, "How can you bear up under all this? Why don't you curse God and die!"

"Shall we receive good but no evil at God's hand?" asked Job.

Three of Job's closest friends visited him frequently to comfort him. They told Job that his suffering must be punishment for his sins. They also tried to get him, as his wife had, to curse God and to change his attitude, yet Job remained steadfast in his trust in God.

Job denied he had sinned. He raised his eyes to heaven, and asked God that if he had done wrong, to smite him. The voice of God in a mighty windstorm came to Job in his sufferings.

And God spoke, and described His mighty works, while Job listened in silence.



When the Lord finished, Job, exhausted by his physical suffering and by lack of understanding from those who were his friends, hung his head and muttered, "I have heard, my God!"

Satan had lost his wager, for Job had not disowned his Lord. Then the Lord God comforted Job, and Satan vanished, completely defeated.

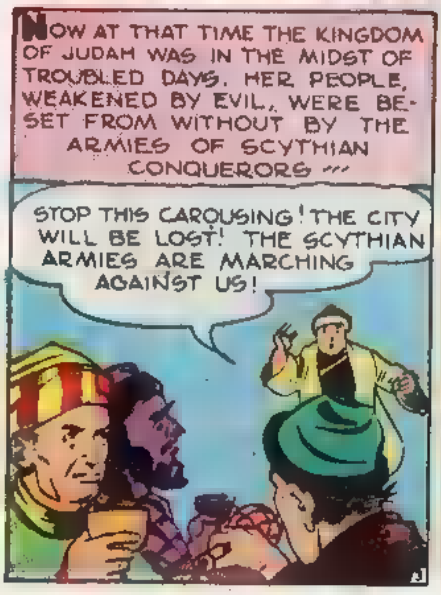
Afterward, a great miracle happened—Job was rewarded in his old age for his trust in God. He regained twice what he had previously lost of sheep, camels and oxen, and what was most remarkable, there were born to him seven other sons and three other daughters.

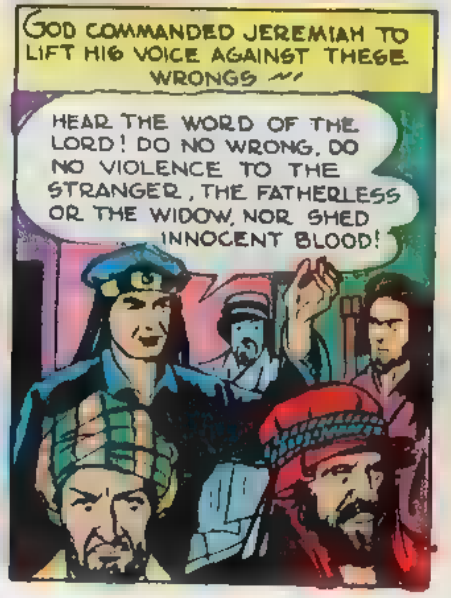
Job lived for a hundred and forty years with his family. He proved that when one loves God through all extremities and through all troubles. God will at last reward him.

The Story of The Prophet JEREMIAH*

FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH IN ALL THREE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

*SPELLED JEREMIAS IN THE DOUAY VERSION

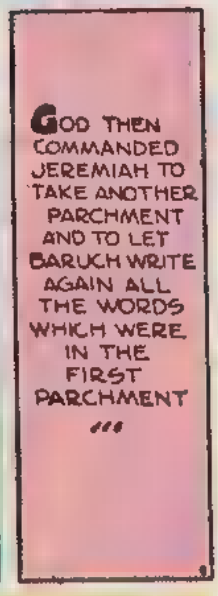


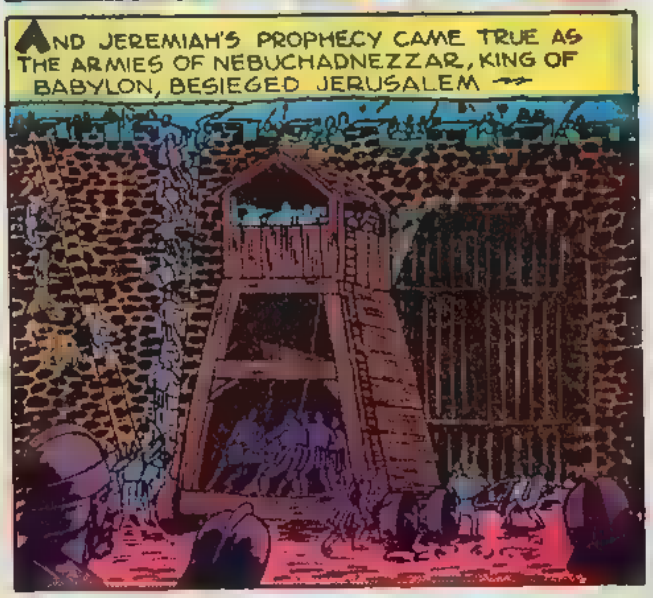


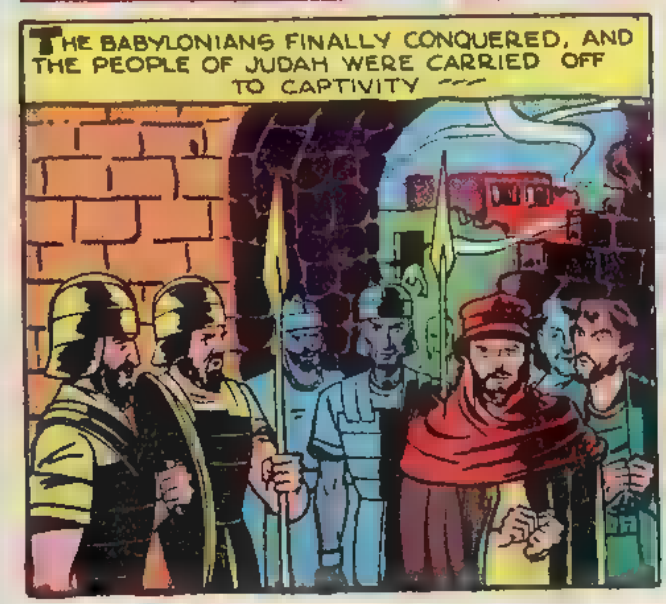
IF YOU DO, FOREIGN ARMIES SHALL ENTER IN AT OUR GATES AND SIT ON THE THRONE OF OUR KING, AND THE LAND OF JUDAH WILL BE DESOLATE!

THE KING HAS FORBIDDEN ME TO PREACH, BUT GOD'S MESSAGE MUST REACH MY PEOPLE IN SOME WAY— THEREFORE, BARUCH, SINCE YOU CAN WRITE, PUT DOWN THESE WORDS ON THIS SHEEPSKIN PARCHMENT—

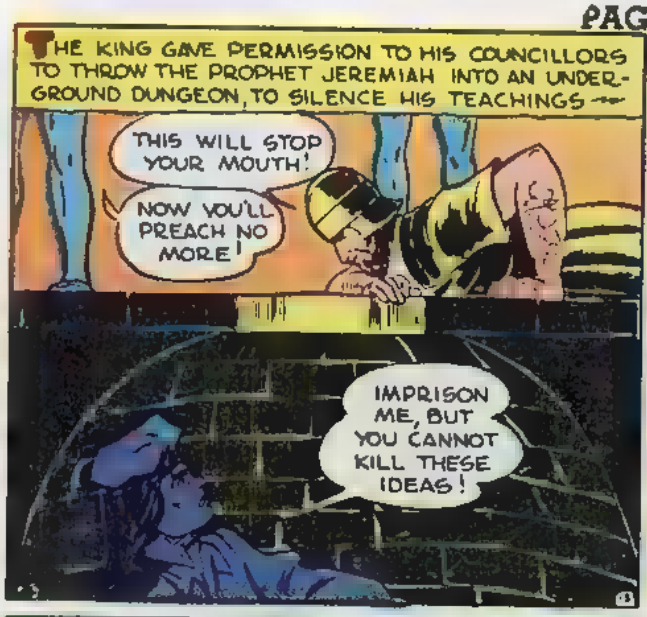
BUT KING JEHOIAKIM SEIZED THE WRITINGS AND BURNED THEM
CRAZY PROPHET! I'LL BURN WHAT HE WRITES!

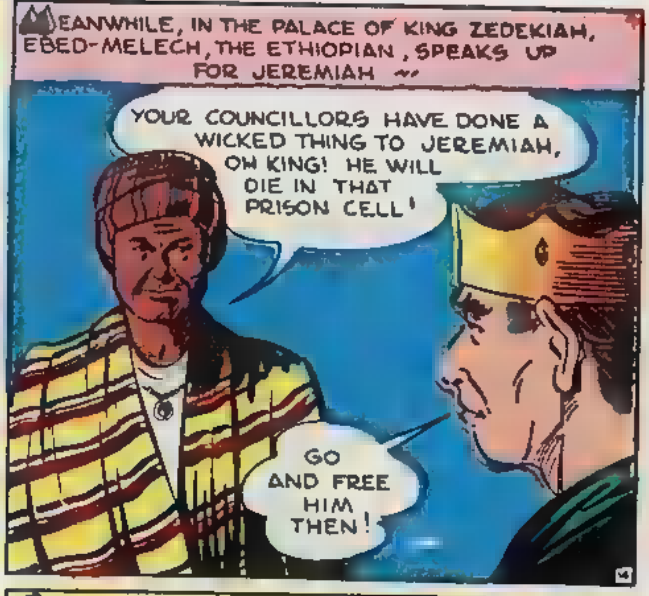

GOD THEN COMMANDED JEREMIAH TO TAKE ANOTHER PARCHMENT AND TO LET BARUCH WRITE AGAIN ALL THE WORDS WHICH WERE IN THE FIRST PARCHMENT


AND JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY CAME TRUE AS THE ARMIES OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, KING OF BABYLON, BESIEGED JERUSALEM

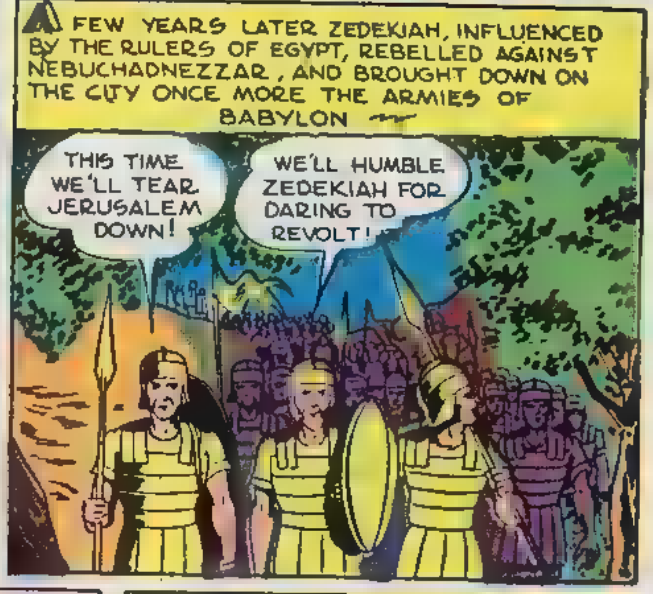

THE BABYLONIANS FINALLY CONQUERED, AND THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH WERE CARRIED OFF TO CAPTIVITY

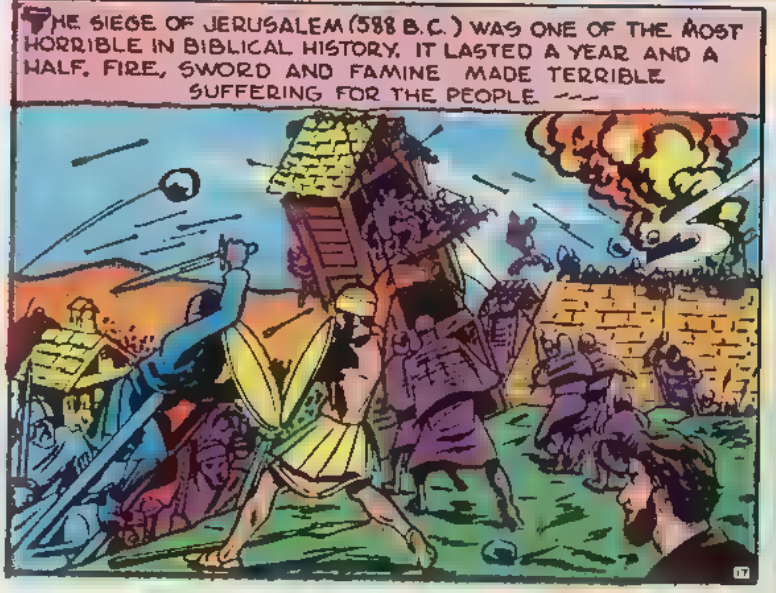
WHILE NEBUCHADNEZZAR PLACED ON THE THRONE A KING NAMED ZEDEKIAH WHO WOULD DO HIS BIDDING
NEBUCHADNEZZAR ORDERS THAT WE CROWN YOU KING!
DO AS WE TELL YOU AND YOU'LL PROSPER!
I'LL DO YOUR BIDDING, MASTERS!


THE KING GAVE PERMISSION TO HIS COUNCILLORS TO THROW THE PROPHET JEREMIAH INTO AN UNDERGROUND DUNGEON, TO SILENCE HIS TEACHINGS
THIS WILL STOP YOUR MOUTH!
NOW YOU'LL PREACH NO MORE!
IMPRISON ME, BUT YOU CANNOT KILL THESE IDEAS!


MEANWHILE, IN THE PALACE OF KING ZEDEKIAH, EBED-MELECH, THE ETHIOPIAN, SPEAKS UP FOR JEREMIAH
YOUR COUNCILLORS HAVE DONE A WICKED THING TO JEREMIAH, OH KING! HE WILL DIE IN THAT PRISON CELL!
GO AND FREE HIM THEN!

YOU ARE A GOOD MAN, EBBED-MELECH!
BECAUSE I REVERE YOUR GOODNESS, JEREMIAH!


A FEW YEARS LATER ZEDEKIAH, INFLUENCED BY THE RULERS OF EGYPT, REBELLED AGAINST NEBUCHADNEZZAR, AND BROUGHT DOWN ON THE CITY ONCE MORE THE ARMIES OF BABYLON
THIS TIME WE'LL TEAR JERUSALEM DOWN!
WE'LL HUMBLE ZEDEKIAH FOR DARING TO REVOLT!

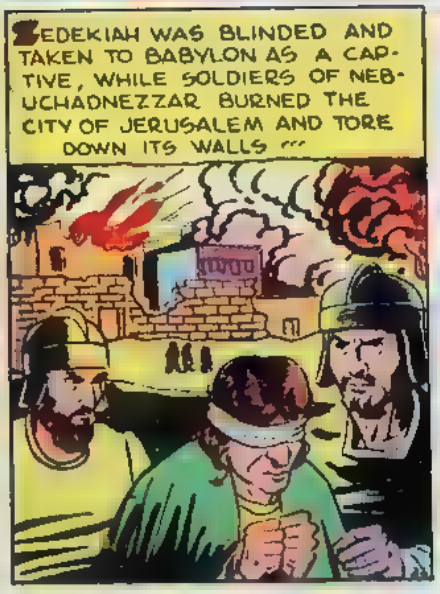

THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM (588 B.C.) WAS ONE OF THE MOST HORRIBLE IN BIBLICAL HISTORY. IT LASTED A YEAR AND A HALF. FIRE, SWORD AND FAMINE MADE TERRIBLE SUFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE

IN THE BLACKEST MOMENT, ZEDEKIAH REMEMBERED THE WISE PROPHET JEREMIAH AND SENT FOR HIM
JEREMIAH, I WOULD ASK YOU ONE THING —HIDE NOTHING FROM ME!

YOU CAN'T WIN – SURRENDER! YOU WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE AND YOUR CITY!
I AM AFRAID!

SO ZEDEKIAH STUBBORNLY WENT ON RESISTING. THE BABYLONIANS BROKE THROUGH THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM AND ENTERED THE CITY ...

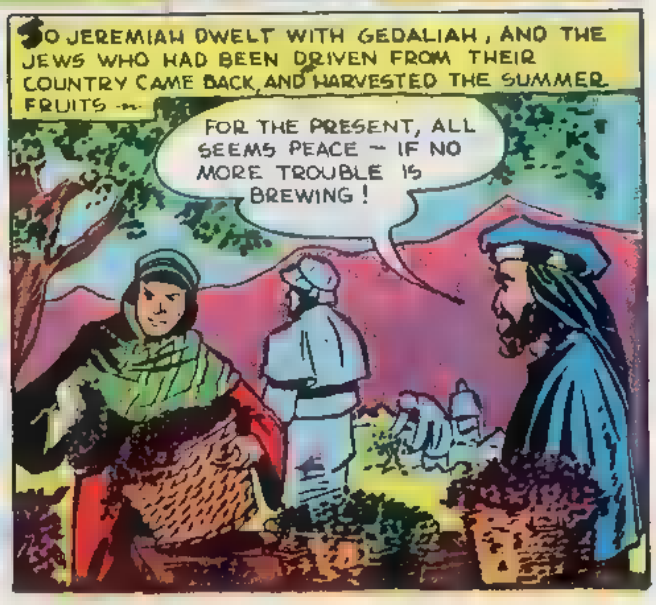
ZEDEKIAH WITH HIS HOUSEHOLD FLED TO THE PLAINS OF JERICHO, BUT HE WAS OVERTAKEN.
SURRENDER, KING ZEDEKIAH, IN THE NAME OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR!


ZEDEKIAH WAS BLINDED AND TAKEN TO BABYLON AS A CAPTIVE, WHILE SOLDIERS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR BURNED THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AND TORE DOWN ITS WALLS ...

MEANWHILE, INSIDE RAVAGED JERUSALEM ...
JEREMIAH WAS RIGHT! HE PROPHESIED THIS, BUT WE WOULDN'T LISTEN!

ALL THIS TIME JEREMIAH HAD BEEN LIVING WITHIN THE PRISON, THOUGH NOT AS A PRISONER. NOW, HOWEVER ...
THAT SHOULD BE JEREMIAH!
WE HAVE ORDERS TO TAKE YOU WITH US!
HE TOLD THE JUDEANS TO SURRENDER – WE WON'T HARM HIM!

IF YOU WISH TO GO TO BABYLON, WE WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU – BUT IF NOT, GO WHERE YOU WANT TO GO. YOU ARE FREE NOW!
I WILL STAY HERE WITH MY PEOPLE, WITH GEDALIAH WHOM THE KING OF BABYLON HAS MADE GOVERNOR OVER THE CITIES OF JUDAH


SO JEREMIAH DWELT WITH GEDALIAH, AND THE JEWS WHO HAD BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR COUNTRY CAME BACK AND HARVESTED THE SUMMER FRUITS ...
FOR THE PRESENT, ALL SEEMS PEACE – IF NO MORE TROUBLE IS BREWING!

BUT TROUBLE SOON COMMENCED; FOR GEDALIAH WAS SLAIN BY A MAN WHO DISTRUSTED HIM —
HELP! I'VE BEEN STABBED!

NOW, MORE TROUBLE!
WHAT WILL BABYLON DO ABOUT THIS?
WE'LL BE MADE TO SUFFER!

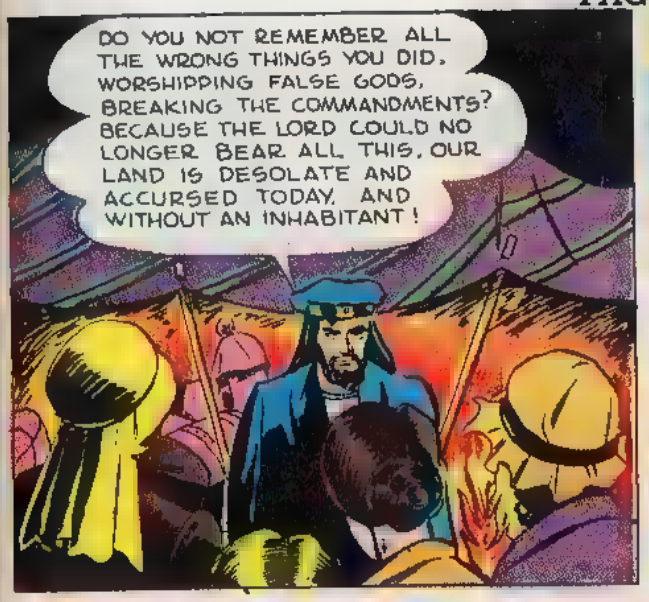
LET'S GO INTO THE LAND OF EGYPT, WHERE WE SHALL SEE NO WAR, NOR HEAR THE SOUND OF THE TRUMPETS NOR BE HUNGRY FOR BREAD — AND THERE WILL WE DWELL!
LET'S ASK JEREMIAH WHAT HE THINKS!

AND THE LORD GOD SAYS, YOU MUST NOT GO INTO EGYPT, BUT REMAIN HERE IN YOUR OWN LAND. DO NOT BE AFRAID, HE SAYS, FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND WILL SAVE YOU. IF ANY GO INTO EGYPT, DOOM WILL OVERTAKE THEM THERE ANYWAY!

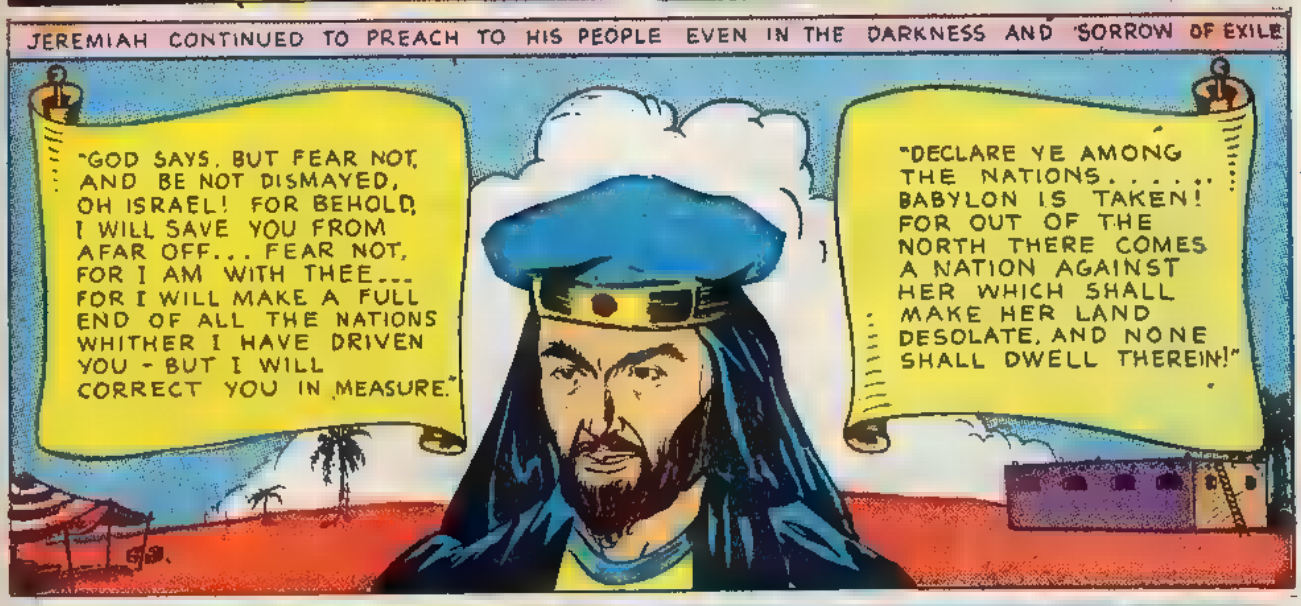
NEVERTHELESS, THIS LITTLE REMNANT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE WENT INTO EGYPT, DISOBEYING THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND THEY TOOK JEREMIAH WITH THEM, AGAINST HIS WILL.
IT ISN'T SAFE TO STAY! THE BABYLONIANS WILL KILL US!
WE LEAVE TONIGHT FOR EGYPT, AND YOU'LL COME WITH US!
THAT WILL NOT SAVE YOU — YOU'LL FIND PEACE ONLY THROUGH GOD!

A FEW DAYS JOURNEY NOW, AND WE'RE OUT OF DANGER!
NO! THERE'S NO ESCAPE IN FLIGHT! YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THINGS!

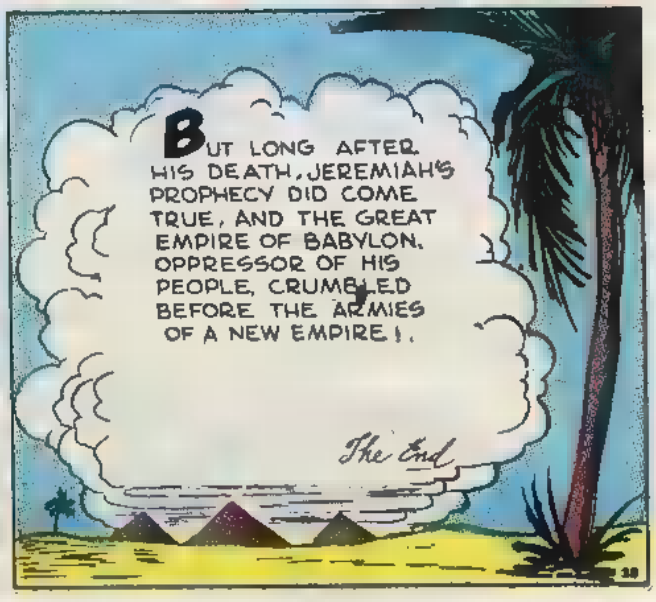
EGYPT IS NOT FAR OFF NOW — THEN FREEDOM FROM OUR TROUBLES!
JEREMIAH GAVE US WRONG ADVICE, TELLING US TO STAY!
NO — FOR YOU WON'T BE FREE WHILE YOU'RE CHAINED TO YOUR WICKEDNESS!


DO YOU NOT REMEMBER ALL THE WRONG THINGS YOU DID, WORSHIPPING FALSE GODS, BREAKING THE COMMANDMENTS? BECAUSE THE LORD COULD NO LONGER BEAR ALL THIS, OUR LAND IS DESOLATE AND ACCURSED TODAY, AND WITHOUT AN INHABITANT!

FINALLY THE LITTLE BAND CAME TO EGYPT AND LIVED THERE ...
HERE AT LAST!
BUT WILL WE EVER RETURN TO OUR OWN LAND AGAIN?


JEREMIAH CONTINUED TO PREACH TO HIS PEOPLE EVEN IN THE DARKNESS AND SORROW OF EXILE
"GOD SAYS, BUT FEAR NOT, AND BE NOT DISMAYED, OH ISRAEL! FOR BEHOLD, I WILL SAVE YOU FROM AFAR OFF... FEAR NOT, FOR I AM WITH THEE... FOR I WILL MAKE A FULL END OF ALL THE NATIONS WHITHER I HAVE DRIVEN YOU - BUT I WILL CORRECT YOU IN MEASURE."
"DECLARE YE AMONG THE NATIONS..... BABYLON IS TAKEN! FOR OUT OF THE NORTH THERE COMES A NATION AGAINST HER WHICH SHALL MAKE HER LAND DESOLATE, AND NONE SHALL DWELL THEREIN!"

FAR FROM HIS HOMELAND OF JUDAH, JEREMIAH GREW OLD AND DIED ...
PERHAPS IF WE HAD LISTENED TO HIM!
HE WAS THE GREATEST AMONG US!


BUT LONG AFTER HIS DEATH, JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY DID COME TRUE, AND THE GREAT EMPIRE OF BABYLON, OPPRESSOR OF HIS PEOPLE, CRUMBLED BEFORE THE ARMIES OF A NEW EMPIRE!.
The End

The Story of Balaam
To Whom an Animal Spoke!

FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS CHAPTERS 22, 23 AND 24 IN ALL THREE VERSIONS

BALAK, King of Moab, stood before his councillors around a long table, and spoke. "We'll send for Balaam the magician, and pay him well to curse the Israelites so we may overcome them as they approach to conquer our lands!"

It was in those days a general superstition that certain magicians like Balaam had power to bring good or evil upon others.

So the King's messengers traveled to the home of Balaam the magician, and were welcomed. Balaam asked them to stay overnight, saying, "I must commune with God, and what He directs, that I will do!"

In the morning the messengers anxiously waited for Balaam. They were finally greeted by him with these words:

"Go back to your country, for I cannot return with you nor curse the Israelites, since they are blessed of the Lord."

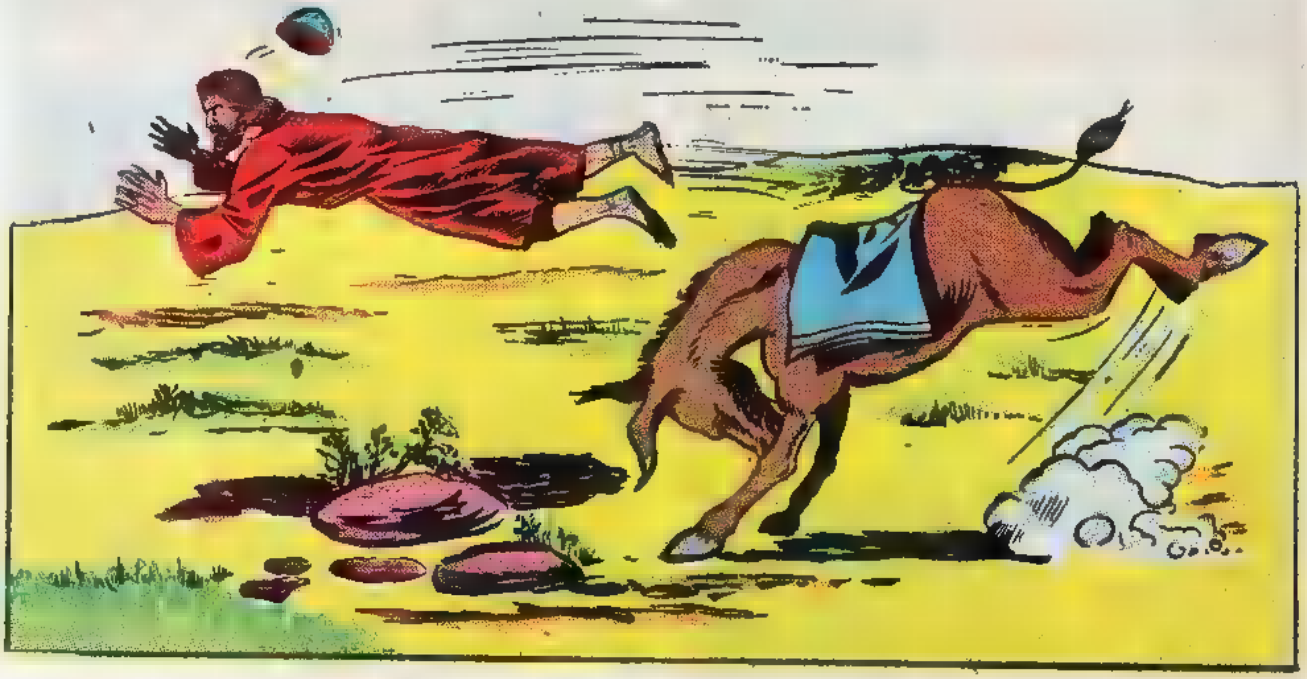
The King was very angry when he heard from the messengers that Balaam would not come. He stormed, "I will send more influential people to Balaam. They will promise Balaam promotion and give him whatever payment he asks, if he will only come and curse the Israelites."

A second embassy of princes waited upon Balaam, who invited them to stay overnight, while he communed with God to find what God wanted him to say.

God's answer, this time, was that Balaam should go to King Balak. So Balaam saddled an ass and with two servants started forth, following some distance behind the returning ambassadors.

Although going, Balaam had not agreed beforehand to curse the Israelites. For the night before, God had spoken to him in a dream and said, "Go and I shall tell you what to say to these people."

The ride was long, and as he went Balaam thought of the riches and honor which the Moabite king would give. He was tempted to accept the offer for he could become very rich and have an important position.



Suddenly, in the middle of the open country, Balaam's faithful beast, the ass, turned aside and ran far into a field!

"Whoa! Whoa!" Balaam shouted, pulling on the reins. But the ass did not stop until Balaam lost balance and was thrown to the ground. Running up, Balaam's two servants who had been following, cried in alarm, "Are you hurt, master? Tell us what happened?"

"Something got into this stupid beast, for he ran amok and threw me!"

Balaam turned the ass back to the road and getting upon his back again proceeded on the trip.

Passing a wall soon afterward, the animal rubbed closely against it so that Balaam's foot was crushed. "This beast is crazy!" yelled Balaam angrily as he struck the animal.

On they went through a narrow pass. The land now had grown hilly and rugged. Here the ass suddenly fell down under Balaam. And once again Balaam found himself thrown off the beast, to land bruised upon the ground.

"What is the meaning of this, you fool creature! I shall whip sense into. . . ."

Then a strange thing happened. It seemed as though words came from the mouth of the ass! Balaam, standing now, looked at the beast in stupefaction.

"You have often ridden me, master. But have I ever done these things to you before?"

"You—speak?" Balaam stared hard at the animal.

"Have I not served you well for years?" Words came again from the ass. "Please do not beat me, master!"

When these words were done, Balaam swung about as a light blinded him. There he saw, standing before him, the shining, radiant figure of an angel of the Lord.

"It was I who spoke through your beast, and turned him from your road," the angel said.

Balaam knelt and bowed before the angel of the Lord, and the ass stood by, the look of fear upon his face vanished now.

Then Balaam understood. The angel of the Lord, by causing the faithful ass to act as he had done, had been trying to turn Balaam away from Moab, and to make the magician change his mind about accepting riches as a bribe to curse the Israelites.

Balaam said, "I have sinned, and will not curse them!"

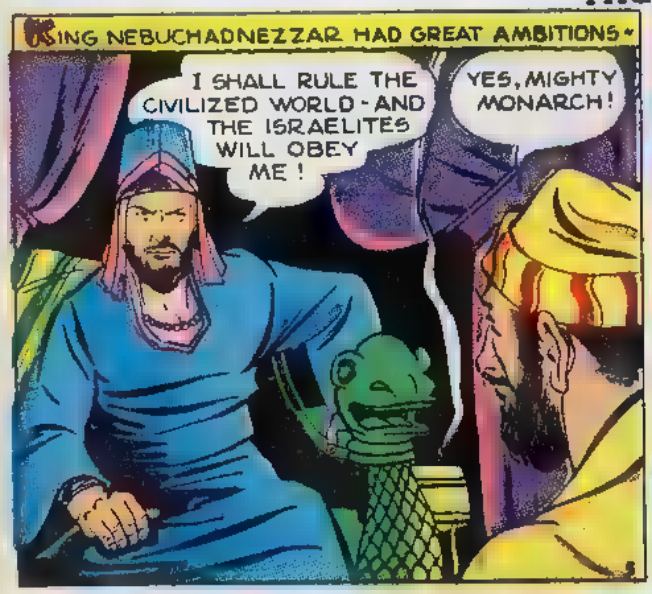
Later, meeting with King Balak, Balaam rebuked the Moabite monarch, and proved himself a courageous man by not being tempted by riches against the will of his Lord God.

The Story of EZEKIEL*

The Prophet who had a Vision of Dry Bones

FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL IN ALL THREE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

*SPELLED EZECHIEL IN THE DOUAY VERSION


KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD GREAT AMBITIONS
I SHALL RULE THE CIVILIZED WORLD - AND THE ISRAELITES WILL OBEY ME!
YES, MIGHTY MONARCH!

ONE OF THE CAPTIVES WAS A PRIEST. HE LIVED AT TEL-ABIB, ON RIVER CHEBAR, UNMOLESTED BY CONQUERORS
I SHALL GO AWAY. MAY GOD GUIDE ME, FOR I LOVE MY COUNTRY GREATLY!
GOOD EZEKIEL! HE HELPS US TO HAVE COURAGE!

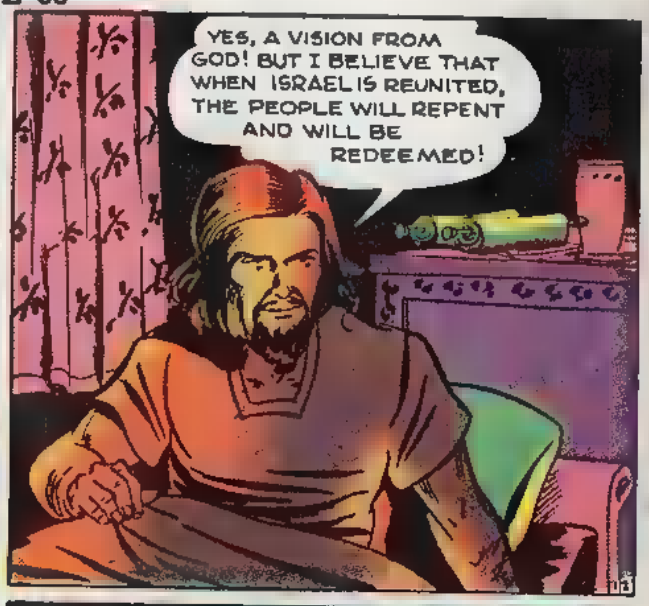
EZEKIEL WAS A DREAMER OF DREAMS
WINGS! AND WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS! A SIGN FROM THE LORD!

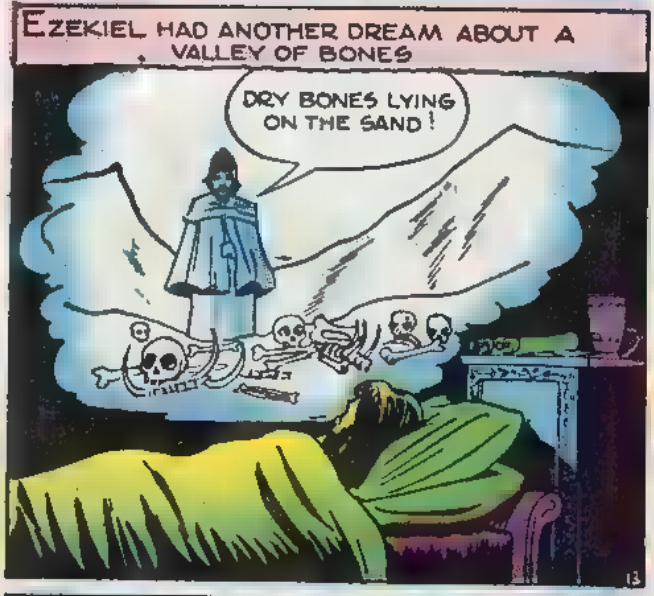
IT IS GOD'S WAY OF GUIDING ME —

SON, ARISE!
LORD - I LISTEN!
9

YOU ARE TO SPEAK FOR ME. BE FEARLESS. GET WORD TO THE JEWS REMAINING IN JERUSALEM.
10

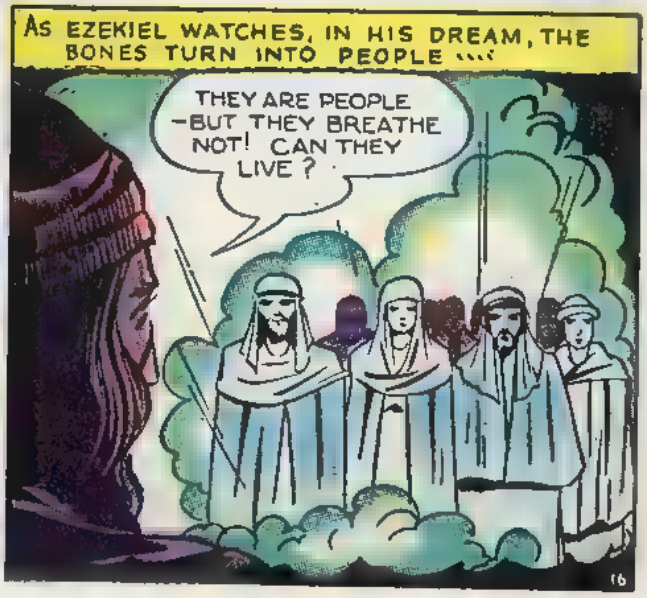
ISRAELITES ARE BREAKING GOD'S LAWS IN JERUSALEM AND HERE IN BABYLON. I WARN THEM, EZEKIEL ---


YES, A VISION FROM GOD! BUT I BELIEVE THAT WHEN ISRAEL IS REUNITED, THE PEOPLE WILL REPENT AND WILL BE REDEEMED!


EZEKIEL HAD ANOTHER DREAM ABOUT A VALLEY OF BONES
DRY BONES LYING ON THE SAND!
13

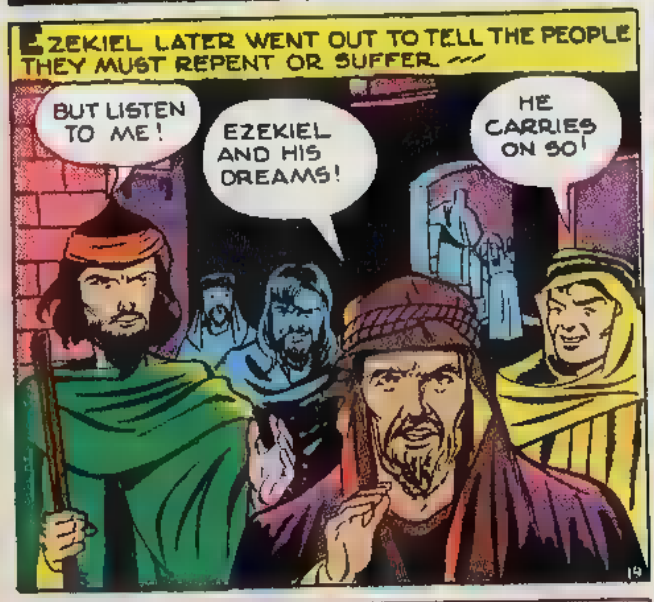
CAN THESE BONES LIVE?
GOD, ONLY YOU KNOW!
14

I WILL MAKE THESE BONES LIVE --
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR YOU, GOD!
15


AS EZEKIEL WATCHES, IN HIS DREAM, THE BONES TURN INTO PEOPLE ....
THEY ARE PEOPLE -BUT THEY BREATHE NOT! CAN THEY LIVE?
16

THEY ARE REAL! A MIRACLE, LORD!
I'VE CALLED THE WIND - IT GIVES THEM BREATH!
17

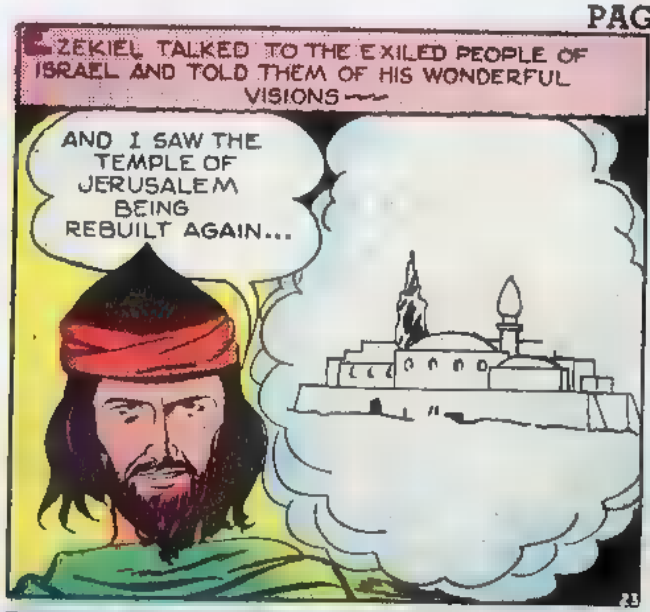
A GREAT ARMY! THE DRY BONES OF ISRAEL. REPENTING, THEY ARE GIVEN NEW LIFE, EZEKIEL!
I UNDERSTAND!
18

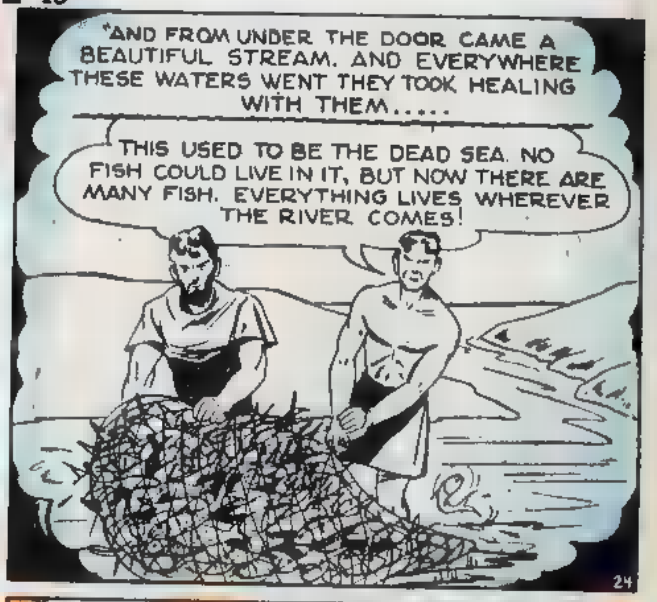

EZEKIEL LATER WENT OUT TO TELL THE PEOPLE THEY MUST REPENT OR SUFFER ~~
BUT LISTEN TO ME!
EZEKIEL AND HIS DREAMS!
HE CARRIES ON SO!
19

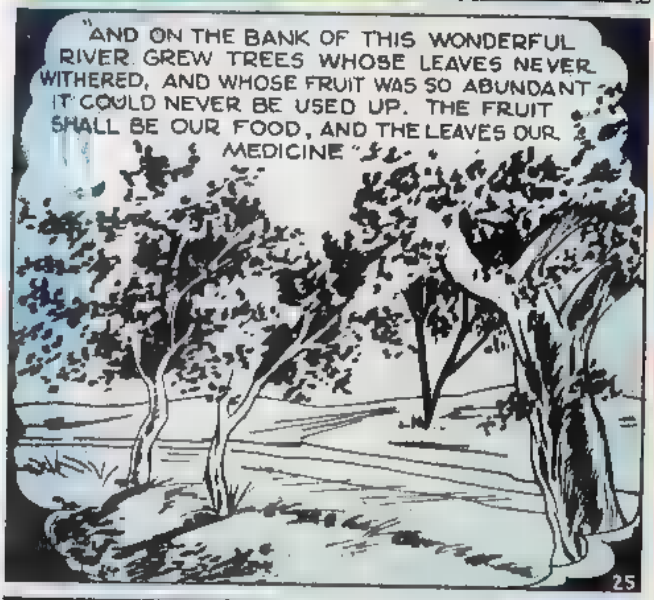
ISRAELITES MUST LISTEN - I GIVE HOPE! WILL YOU LIVE IN BONDAGE FOREVER?
OH, GO AWAY!
WE'VE NO TIME!
20

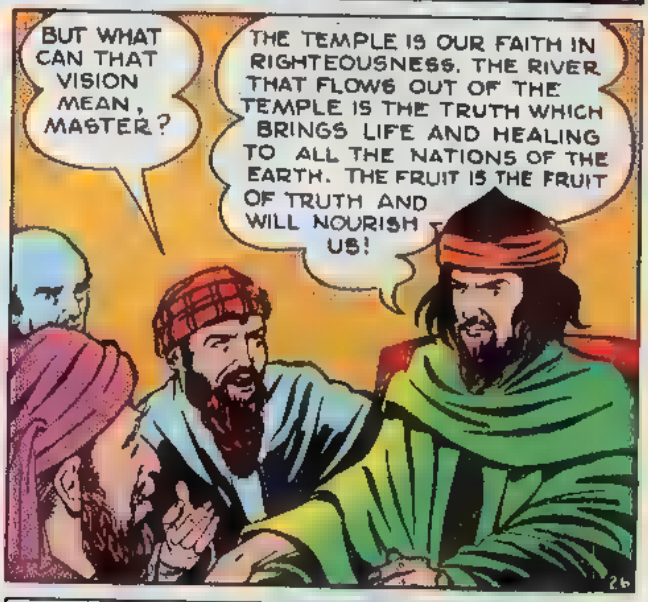
BUT EZEKIEL DID NOT LOSE HEART AND WENT ON PREACHING ~~
GOD HAS SENT ME TO YOU! HE SAYS WE ARE A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE! IF WE HAD NOT BEEN SO WICKED, WE WOULD NOT HAVE LOST OUR CITY OF JERUSALEM!
21

AND FINALLY, HIS COUNTRYMEN IN EXILE LISTENED TO HIM AND HONORED HIM ~~
GOD TOLD ME TO SAY, IF WE WISH TO BE FREE AND HAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY OF JERUSALEM AGAIN, WE MUST CAST ALL OUR EVIL AWAY FROM US, AND MAKE US NEW HEARTS AND NEW SPIRITS!
22

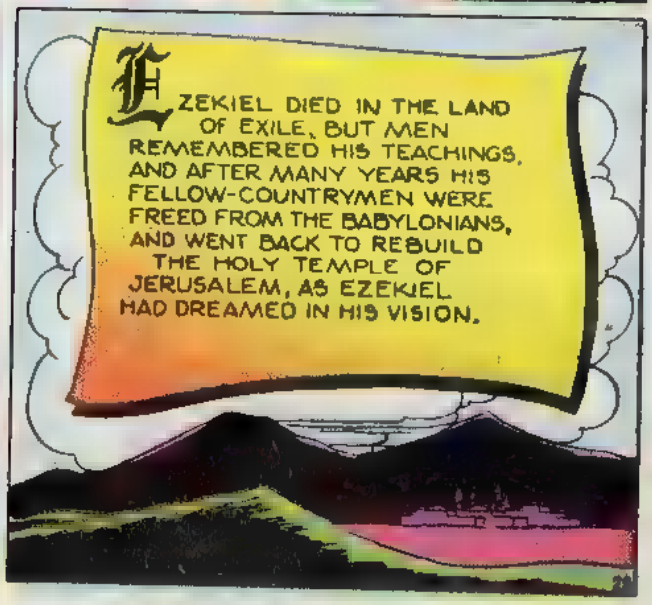

EZEKIEL TALKED TO THE EXILED PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND TOLD THEM OF HIS WONDERFUL VISIONS ~~
AND I SAW THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM BEING REBUILT AGAIN...
23


"AND FROM UNDER THE DOOR CAME A BEAUTIFUL STREAM. AND EVERYWHERE THESE WATERS WENT THEY TOOK HEALING WITH THEM.....
THIS USED TO BE THE DEAD SEA. NO FISH COULD LIVE IN IT, BUT NOW THERE ARE MANY FISH. EVERYTHING LIVES WHEREVER THE RIVER COMES!
24


"AND ON THE BANK OF THIS WONDERFUL RIVER GREW TREES WHOSE LEAVES NEVER WITHERED, AND WHOSE FRUIT WAS SO ABUNDANT IT COULD NEVER BE USED UP. THE FRUIT SHALL BE OUR FOOD, AND THE LEAVES OUR MEDICINE."
25


BUT WHAT CAN THAT VISION MEAN, MASTER?
THE TEMPLE IS OUR FAITH IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE RIVER THAT FLOWS OUT OF THE TEMPLE IS THE TRUTH WHICH BRINGS LIFE AND HEALING TO ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH. THE FRUIT IS THE FRUIT OF TRUTH AND WILL NOURISH US!
26

BUT THE TEMPLE MUST BE PURIFIED, AND OUR LIVES MUST BE GOOD IN EVERY WAY, OR THE RIVER WILL DRY UP!

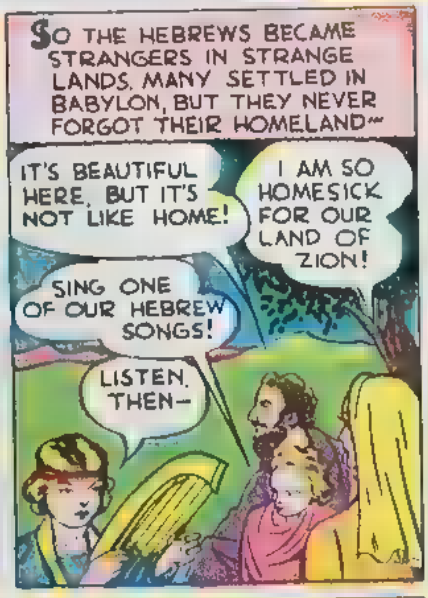

EZEKIEL DIED IN THE LAND OF EXILE, BUT MEN REMEMBERED HIS TEACHINGS, AND AFTER MANY YEARS HIS FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN WERE FREED FROM THE BABYLONIANS, AND WENT BACK TO REBUILD THE HOLY TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM, AS EZEKIEL HAD DREAMED IN HIS VISION.

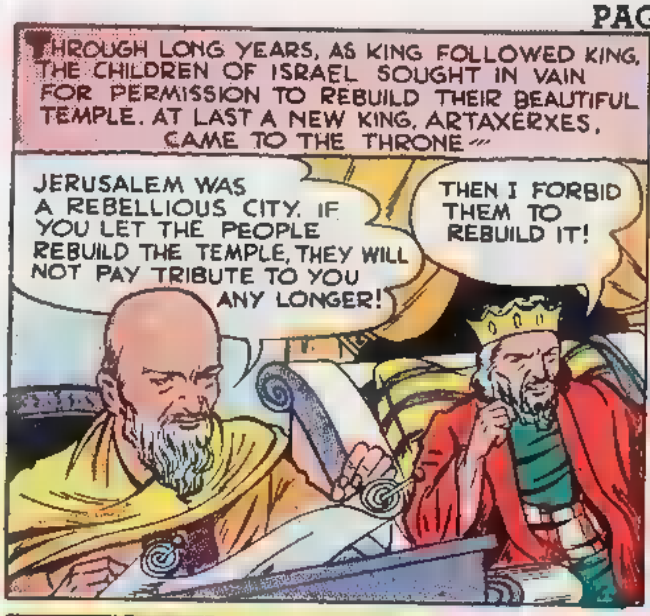
The Story of NEHEMIAH*

The Rebuilder of the Jerusalem Wall

FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH IN ALL THREE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE

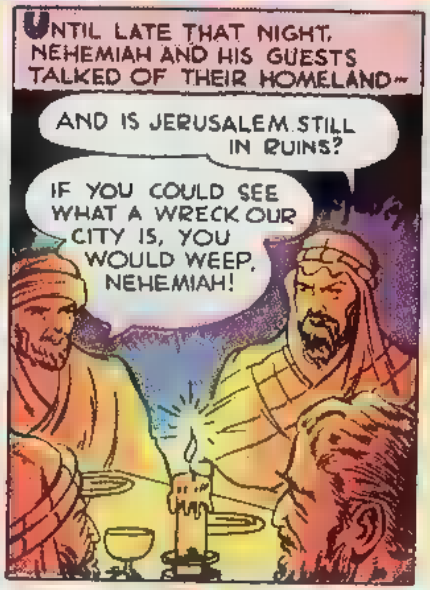
*SPELLED NEHEMIAS IN THE DOUAY VERSION

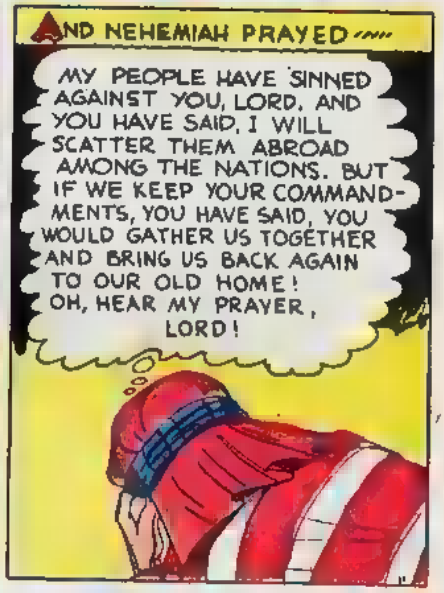



THROUGH LONG YEARS, AS KING FOLLOWED KING, THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SOUGHT IN VAIN FOR PERMISSION TO REBUILD THEIR BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE. AT LAST A NEW KING, ARTAXERXES, CAME TO THE THRONE---
JERUSALEM WAS A REBELLIOUS CITY. IF YOU LET THE PEOPLE REBUILD THE TEMPLE, THEY WILL NOT PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU ANY LONGER!
THEN I FORBID THEM TO REBUILD IT!

ARTAXERXES' CUP-BEARER WAS A MAN NAMED NEHEMIAH, DESCENDANT OF ONE OF THE EXILED FAMILIES FROM JERUSALEM---
I LIKE TO HAVE YOU AROUND ME, NEHEMIAH- YOU'RE SO CHEERFUL!
THANK YOU, SIRE!

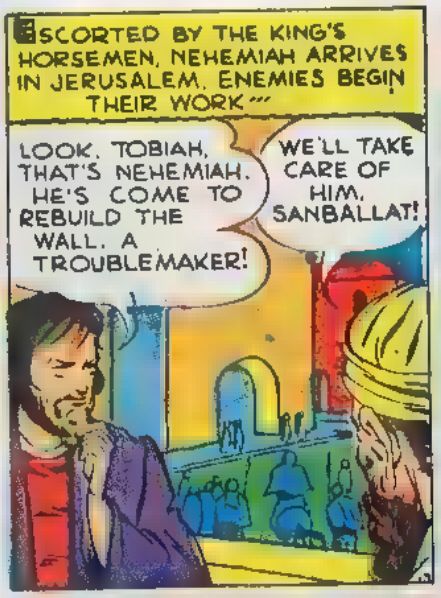
ONE DAY, NEHEMIAH HAD SOME VISITORS---
MY BROTHER, HANANI! WELCOME!
I HAVE COME FROM JERUSALEM TO VISIT YOU, AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS!

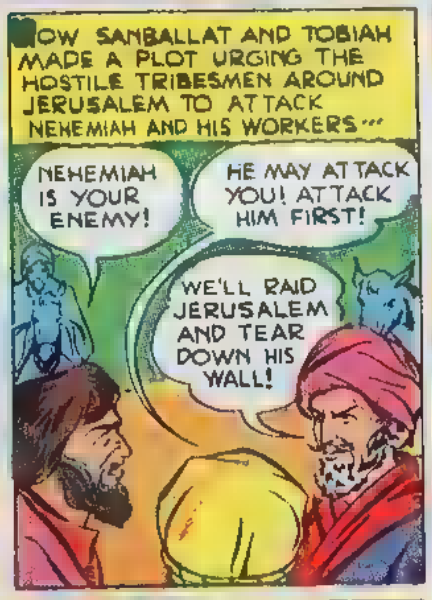

UNTIL LATE THAT NIGHT, NEHEMIAH AND HIS GUESTS TALKED OF THEIR HOMELAND--
AND IS JERUSALEM STILL IN RUINS?
IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT A WRECK OUR CITY IS, YOU WOULD WEEP, NEHEMIAH!

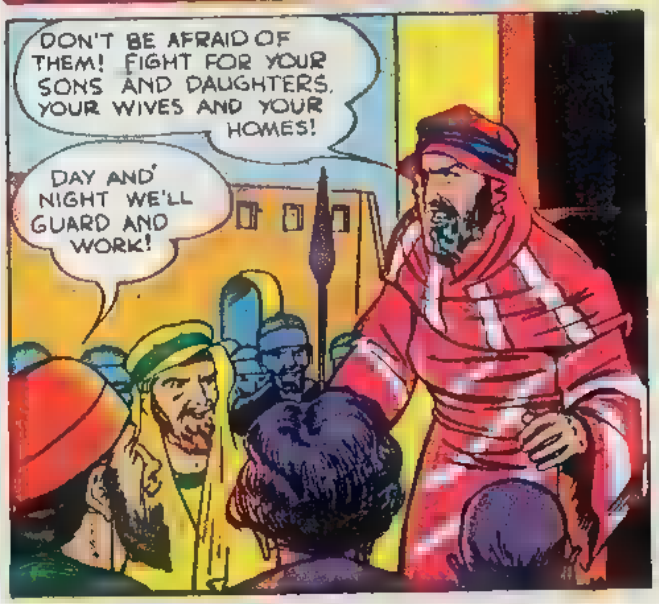

AND NEHEMIAH PRAYED-----
MY PEOPLE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU, LORD, AND YOU HAVE SAID, I WILL SCATTER THEM ABROAD AMONG THE NATIONS. BUT IF WE KEEP YOUR COMMANDMENTS, YOU HAVE SAID, YOU WOULD GATHER US TOGETHER AND BRING US BACK AGAIN TO OUR OLD HOME! OH, HEAR MY PRAYER, LORD!

YOU ARE NOT SICK, NEHEMIAH- WHY ARE YOU SO SAD, THEN?
WHY SHOULD I NOT BE SAD, SIRE, WHEN THE CITY OF MY FATHERS LIES IN RUINS!

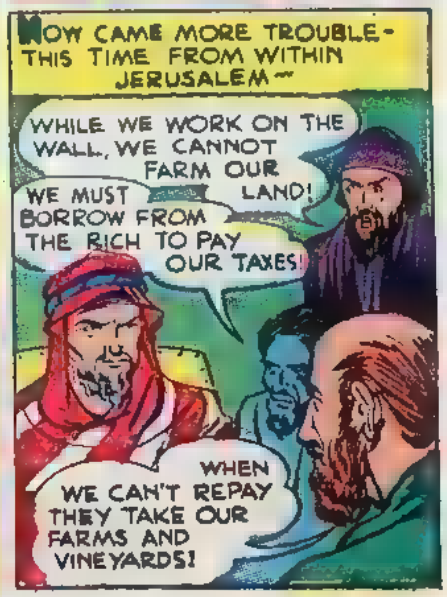
O KING, SEND ME TO JERUSALEM AND LET ME REBUILD THE CITY WALL!
VERY WELL. ONCE I FORBADE YOUR PEOPLE TO REBUILD LEST THEY GROW PROUD AND REBEL-- BUT I TRUST YOU, NEHEMIAH- YOU MAY GO!



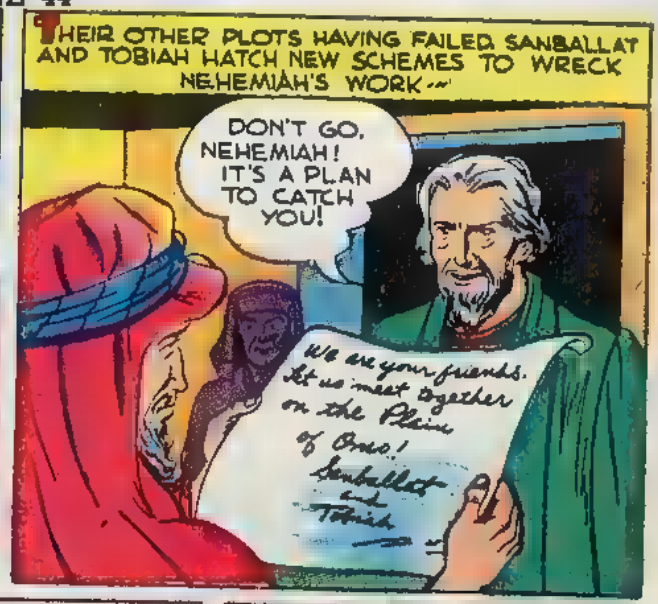




KNOWING THE HEBREWS WERE READY, THE TRIBESMEN NEVER ATTACKED, AND WORK WENT FORWARD ON THE WALL ...

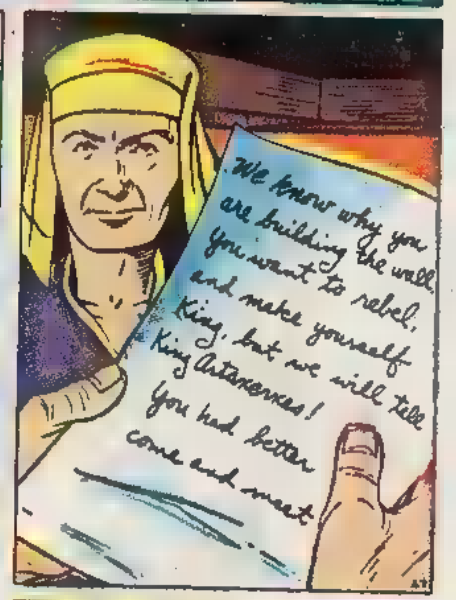


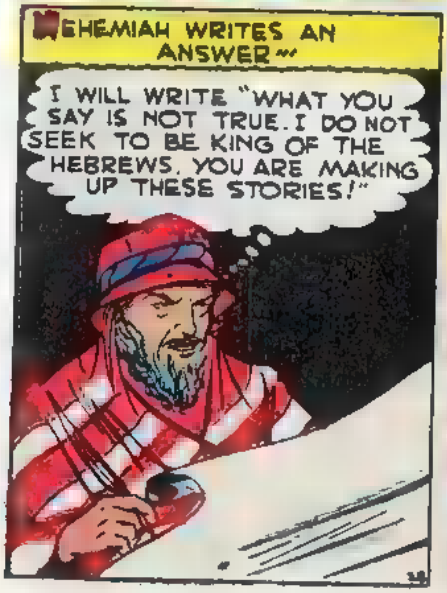
NEHEMIAH FACES THE RICH MONEY LENDERS ~~
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS BAD! THESE MEN ARE YOUR BROTHERS! GIVE THEM BACK THEIR FARMS AND VINEYARDS!
WE WILL DO AS YOU SAY, NEHEMIAH!

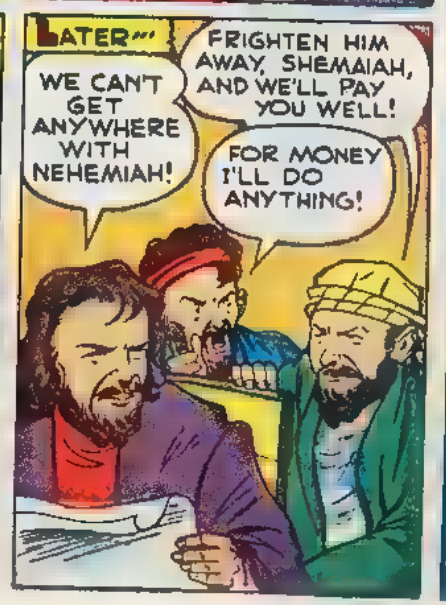

THEIR OTHER PLOTS HAVING FAILED SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH HATCH NEW SCHEMES TO WRECK NEHEMIAH'S WORK ~~
DON'T GO, NEHEMIAH! IT'S A PLAN TO CATCH YOU!
We are your friends. Let us meet together on the Plain of Ono! Sanballat and Tobiah

TELL SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH THAT I AM DOING A GREAT WORK AND I CANNOT COME!

BUT THE MESSENGER COMES BACK ~~
WHAT, ARE YOU HERE AGAIN? FOUR TIMES I'VE SAID NO! WHAT NOW?
READ IT, NEHEMIAH!

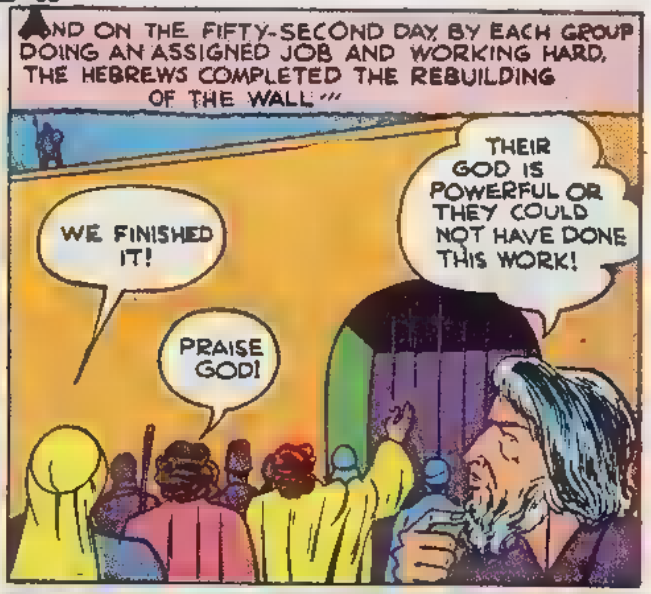

We know why you are building the wall. You want to rebel, and make yourself King, but we will tell King Artaxerxes! You had better come and meet

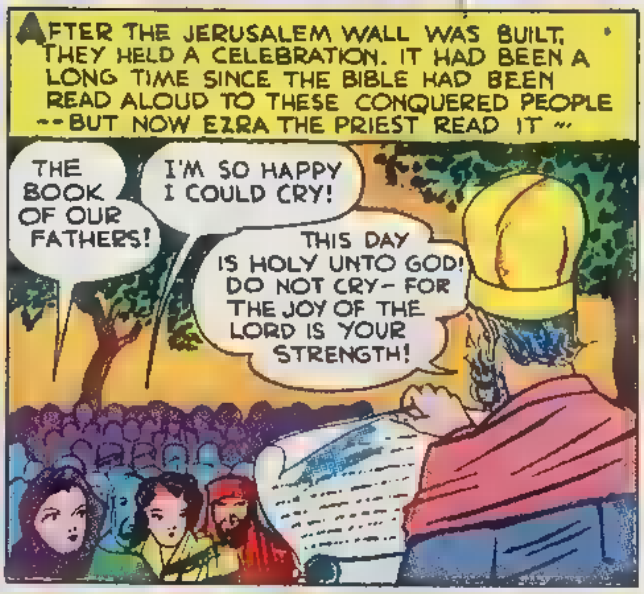

NEHEMIAH WRITES AN ANSWER ~~
I WILL WRITE "WHAT YOU SAY IS NOT TRUE. I DO NOT SEEK TO BE KING OF THE HEBREWS. YOU ARE MAKING UP THESE STORIES!"

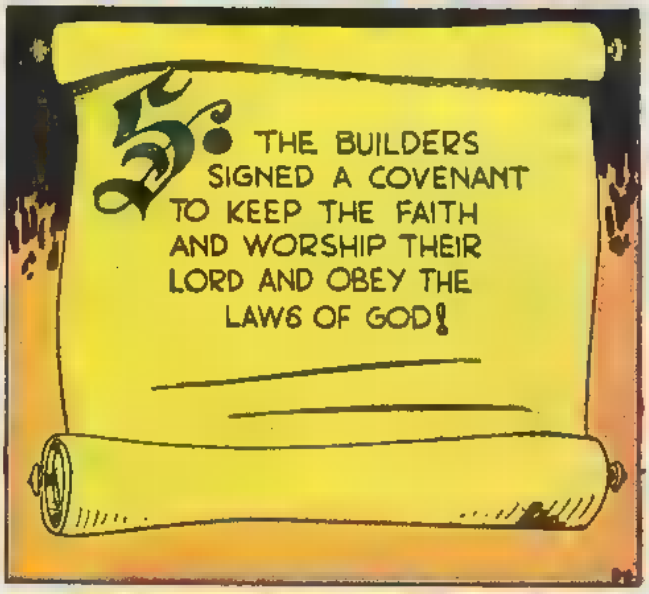

LATER ~~
WE CAN'T GET ANYWHERE WITH NEHEMIAH!
FRIGHTEN HIM AWAY, SHEMAIAH, AND WE'LL PAY YOU WELL!
FOR MONEY I'LL DO ANYTHING!

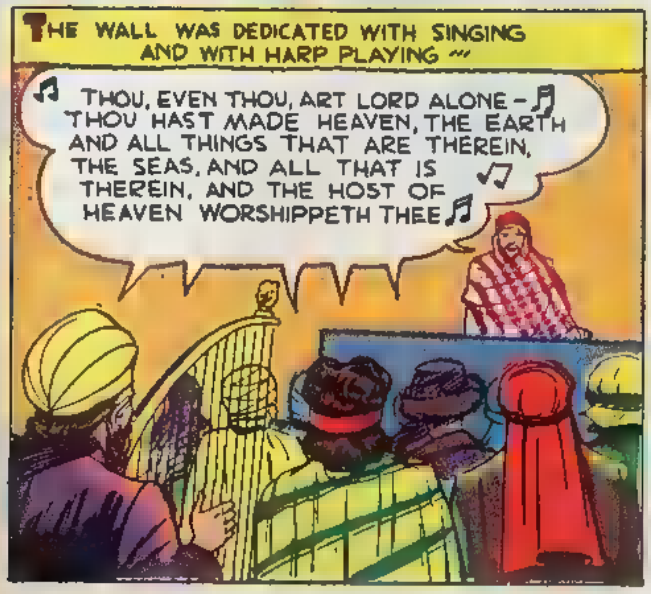
LATER IN NEHEMIAH'S HOUSE ~~
I'M WARNING YOU AS A FRIEND, NEHEMIAH! HIDE IN THE HEATHEN TEMPLE! THEY ARE OUT TO KILL YOU!
THAT WOULD BE WICKED! NO, I MUST STAY AND BUILD THE WALL - I'M NOT AFRAID!

BUT WE PAID YOU TO FRIGHTEN HIM AWAY!
HE IS FEARLESS! HE WILL NOT BE FRIGHTENED.

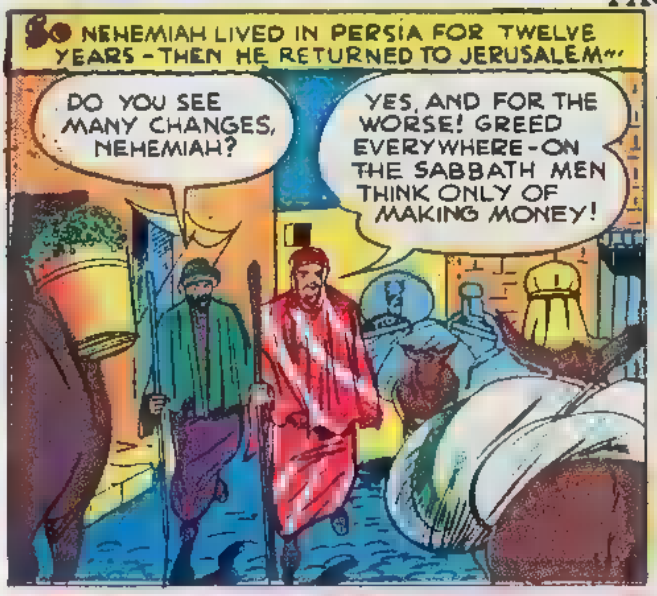

AND ON THE FIFTY-SECOND DAY, BY EACH GROUP DOING AN ASSIGNED JOB AND WORKING HARD, THE HEBREWS COMPLETED THE REBUILDING OF THE WALL ~~
WE FINISHED IT!
PRAISE GOD!
THEIR GOD IS POWERFUL OR THEY COULD NOT HAVE DONE THIS WORK!

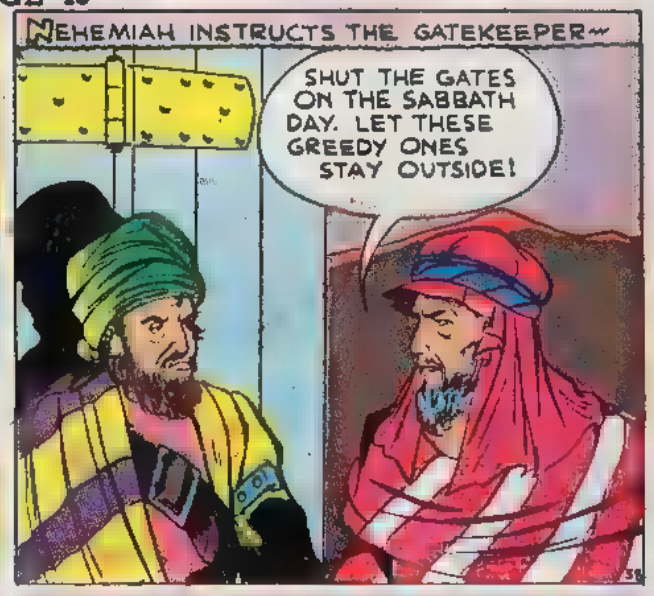

AFTER THE JERUSALEM WALL WAS BUILT, THEY HELD A CELEBRATION. IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE BIBLE HAD BEEN READ ALOUD TO THESE CONQUERED PEOPLE --BUT NOW EZRA THE PRIEST READ IT ~~
THE BOOK OF OUR FATHERS!
I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY!
THIS DAY IS HOLY UNTO GOD! DO NOT CRY- FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH!

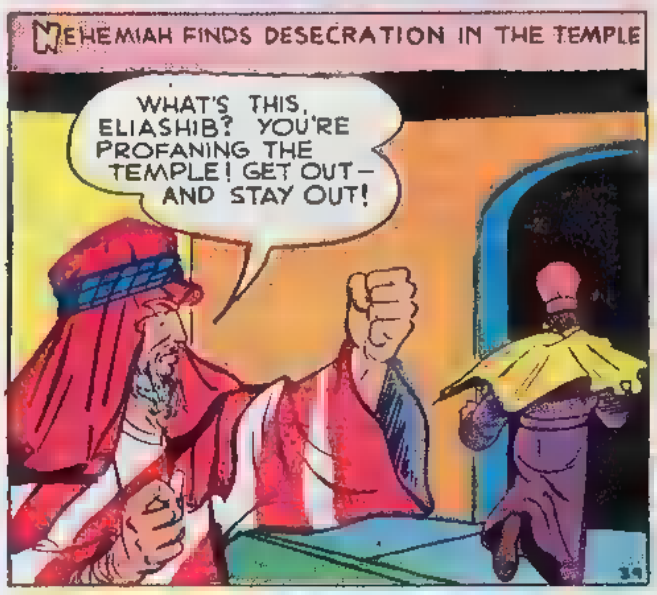

5. THE BUILDERS SIGNED A COVENANT TO KEEP THE FAITH AND WORSHIP THEIR LORD AND OBEY THE LAWS OF GOD!


THE WALL WAS DEDICATED WITH SINGING AND WITH HARP PLAYING ~~
♫ THOU, EVEN THOU, ART LORD ALONE - ♫ THOU HAST MADE HEAVEN, THE EARTH AND ALL THINGS THAT ARE THEREIN, THE SEAS, AND ALL THAT IS THEREIN, AND THE HOST OF HEAVEN WORSHIPPETH THEE ♫

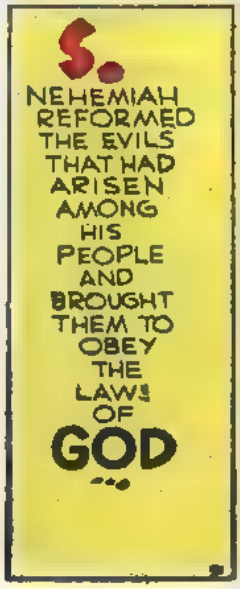
NOW THAT HIS WORK WAS DONE, NEHEMIAH KNEW HE MUST RETURN TO KING ARTAXERXES AGAIN ~~
YOU HAVE DONE MUCH FOR YOUR PEOPLE, NEHEMIAH!
I PROMISED THE KING I WOULD RETURN, AND I MUST GO. BUT I WILL NOT FORGET YOU, AND I WILL COME AGAIN!

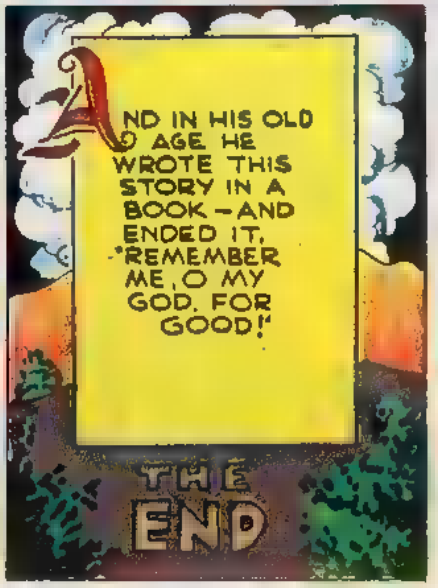

SO NEHEMIAH LIVED IN PERSIA FOR TWELVE YEARS - THEN HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM...
DO YOU SEE MANY CHANGES, NEHEMIAH?
YES, AND FOR THE WORSE! GREED EVERYWHERE - ON THE SABBATH MEN THINK ONLY OF MAKING MONEY!


NEHEMIAH INSTRUCTS THE GATEKEEPER...
SHUT THE GATES ON THE SABBATH DAY. LET THESE GREEDY ONES STAY OUTSIDE!


NEHEMIAH FINDS DESECRATION IN THE TEMPLE
WHAT'S THIS, ELIASHIB? YOU'RE PROFANING THE TEMPLE! GET OUT - AND STAY OUT!

HE THEN WARNS THE PEOPLE...
YOUR FATHERS DID EVIL AND BROUGHT ALL THIS TROUBLE ON US! DO YOU WANT TO DO THE SAME?
NO! NO!
WE WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NEHEMIAH!


SO NEHEMIAH REFORMED THE EVILS THAT HAD ARISEN AMONG HIS PEOPLE AND BROUGHT THEM TO OBEY THE LAWS OF GOD...


AND IN HIS OLD AGE HE WROTE THIS STORY IN A BOOK - AND ENDED IT, "REMEMBER ME, O MY GOD, FOR GOOD!"
THE END

The Story of The MACCABEES*

FROM THE BOOKS OF THE MACCABEES WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN SOME EDITIONS OF THE KING JAMES VERSION AND FOUND IN FULL IN THE DOUAY VERSION OF THE BIBLE.

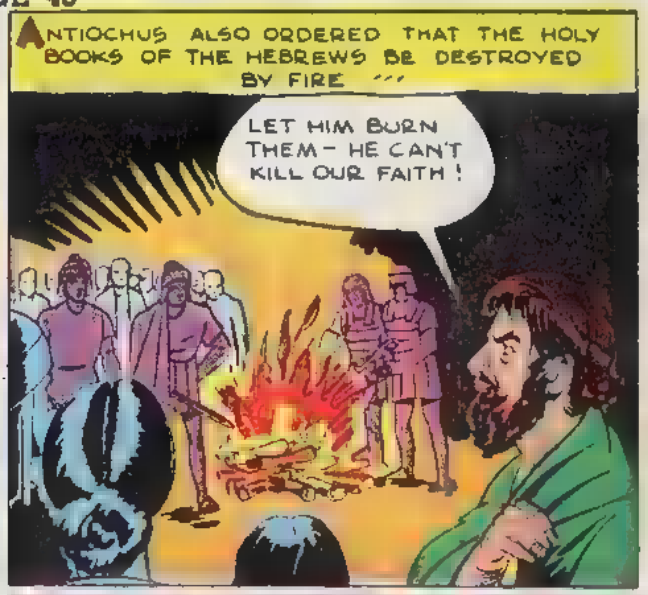
*SPELLED MACHABEES IN THE DOUAY VERSION

BARELY ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER JERUSALEM HAD BEEN REBUILT BY NEHEMIAH, THE CITY WAS THREATENED AGAIN BY THE ADVANCING ARMIES OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT. HE FOUGHT MANY BATTLES AND SUBDUED NATIONS AND PRINCES; AND THEY BECAME TRIBUTARIES TO HIM...
(1 MACC. 1, 2 AND 5)

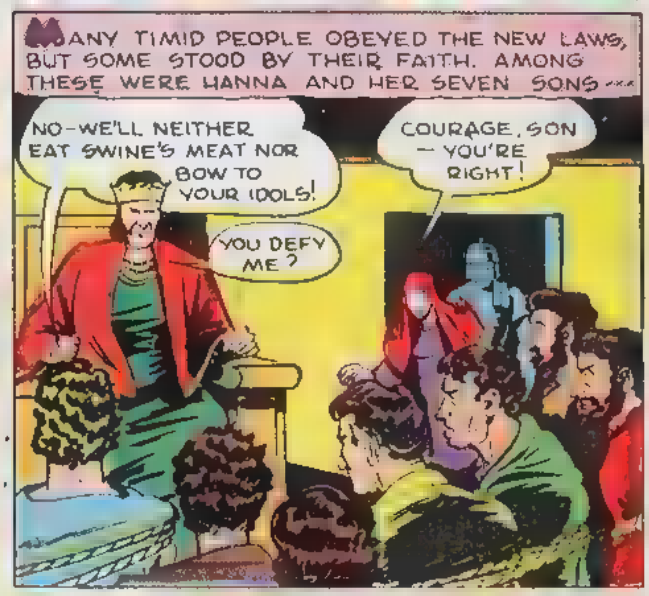
LIKE ALL DICTATORS IN HISTORY, ALEXANDER THE GREAT (SON OF THE FAMOUS PHILIP OF MACEDONIA) BECAME VAINGLORIOUS OVER HIS CONQUESTS... FORGETTING THAT DEATH IN THE END AWAITED HIM.

LATER, ANTIOCHUS WAGED WAR ON EGYPT. THEN HE MARCHED HIS ARMIES AGAINST ISRAEL AND TOOK THE CITY OF JERUSALEM.

THE FEARS OF THE PEOPLE WERE WELL-FOUNDED. ANTIOCHUS BECAME A CRUEL AND MERCILESS DICTATOR ...
WHAT IS THAT ON OUR HOLY ALTAR?
THE NEW GOD! ANTIOCHUS ORDERS PEOPLE TO BOW DOWN TO IT!

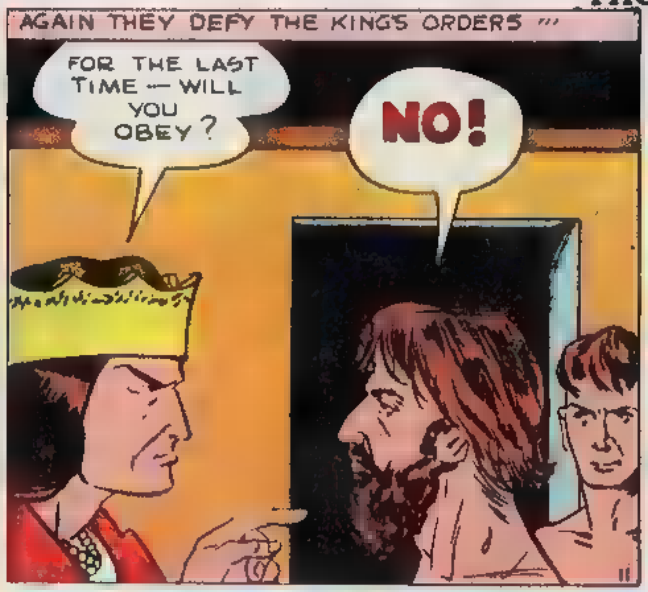

ANTIOCHUS ALSO ORDERED THAT THE HOLY BOOKS OF THE HEBREWS BE DESTROYED BY FIRE ...
LET HIM BURN THEM - HE CAN'T KILL OUR FAITH!

...AND BY ORDER OF THE KING, ALL HEBREWS MUST NOW EAT SWINE'S MEAT!
BUT THAT IS AGAINST OUR HOLY LAW!
HE WOULD HAVE US VIOLATE OUR LAWS AND OUR CUSTOMS!

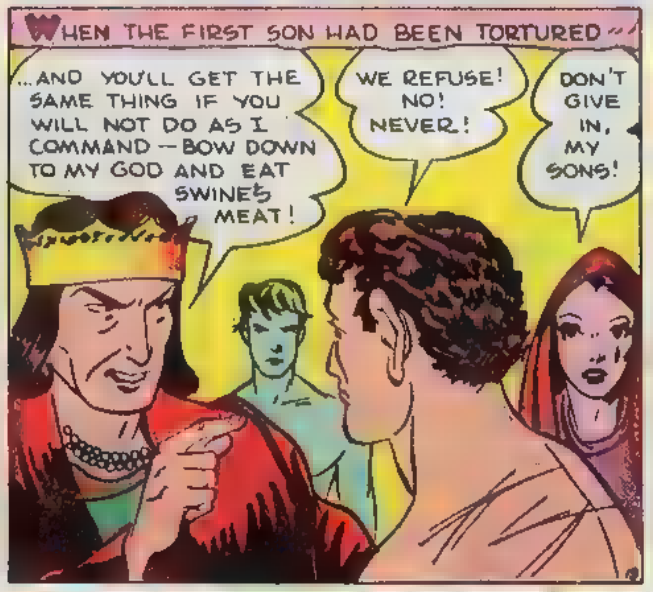

MANY TIMID PEOPLE OBEYED THE NEW LAWS, BUT SOME STOOD BY THEIR FAITH. AMONG THESE WERE HANNA AND HER SEVEN SONS ...
NO-WE'LL NEITHER EAT SWINE'S MEAT NOR BOW TO YOUR IDOLS!
YOU DEFY ME?
COURAGE, SON - YOU'RE RIGHT!

THOSE WHO DISOBEY — WE WHIP!

LET THIS TEACH YOU OBEDIENCE!
NO! I'D DIE RATHER THAN BREAK GOD'S LAW!
BE BRAVE MY SON!

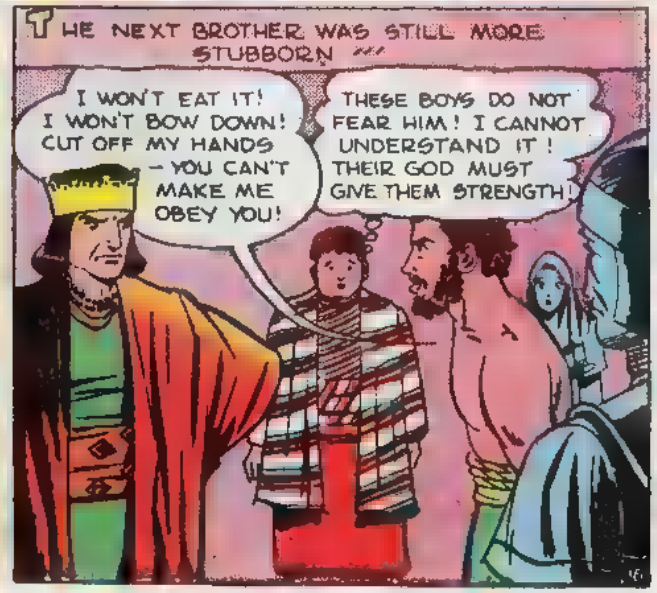

AGAIN THEY DEFY THE KING'S ORDERS ...
FOR THE LAST TIME — WILL YOU OBEY?
NO!

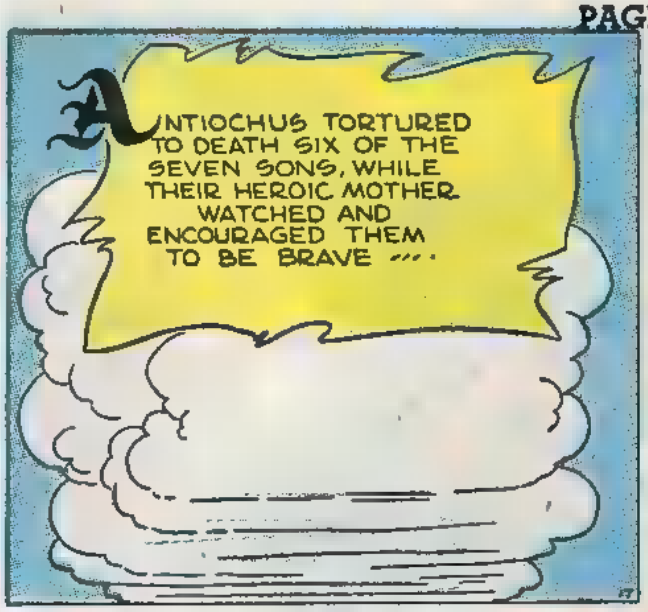
YOU REBEL! WE'LL SEE IF THE FLAMES WILL MELT YOUR WILL!
THEY'LL NOT — FOR GOD WILL STRENGTHEN ME!


WHEN THE FIRST SON HAD BEEN TORTURED ...
...AND YOU'LL GET THE SAME THING IF YOU WILL NOT DO AS I COMMAND — BOW DOWN TO MY GOD AND EAT SWINE'S MEAT!
WE REFUSE! NO! NEVER!
DON'T GIVE IN, MY SONS!

THE SECOND SON WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING ...
WILL YOU EAT IT?
NO, AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU EITHER!

THEN HEAT THE CAULDRON FOR HIM TOO!
GOD WILL NOT FORSAKE US WHO DIE FOR HIM!

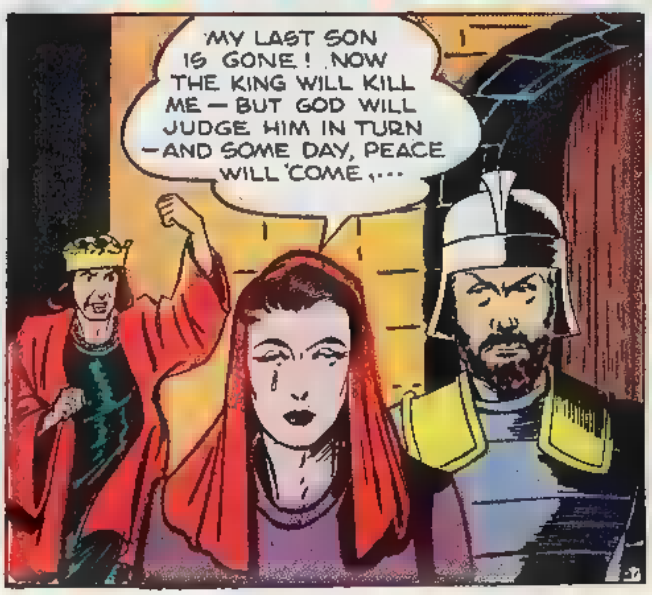

THE NEXT BROTHER WAS STILL MORE STUBBORN ...
I WON'T EAT IT! I WON'T BOW DOWN! CUT OFF MY HANDS — YOU CAN'T MAKE ME OBEY YOU!
THESE BOYS DO NOT FEAR HIM! I CANNOT UNDERSTAND IT! THEIR GOD MUST GIVE THEM STRENGTH!


ANTIOCHUS TORTURED TO DEATH SIX OF THE SEVEN SONS, WHILE THEIR HEROIC MOTHER WATCHED AND ENCOURAGED THEM TO BE BRAVE ....

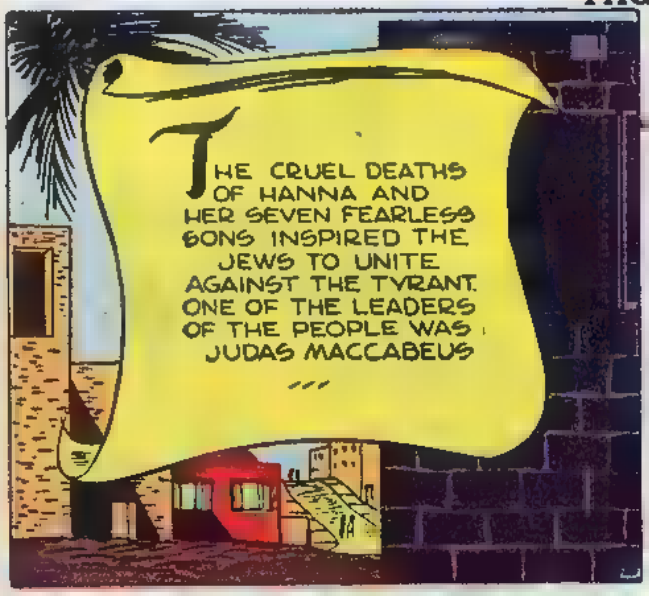
AND FINALLY THE SEVENTH SON FACED THE KING ...
WHY DIE LIKE YOUR BROTHERS? ONLY OBEY ME, AND YOU SHALL BE RICH -- HONORED!
NEVER!

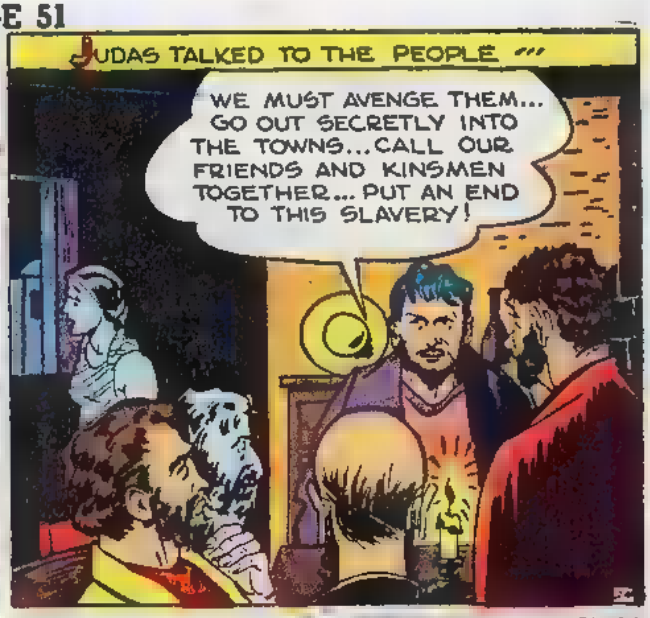
YOU ARE HIS MOTHER. TALK TO HIM — MAKE HIM GIVE UP THIS FOOLISHNESS!
YES, KING! I WILL ADVISE HIM — TO STAND HIS GROUND AND NOT TO BE AFRAID OF YOU!

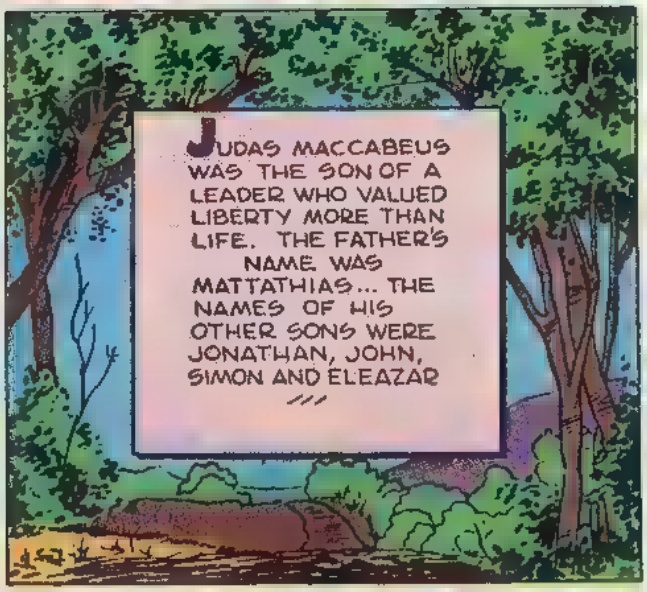
DIE BRAVELY AS YOUR BROTHERS DIED! THUS I SHALL NOT LOSE YOU!


MY LAST SON IS GONE! NOW THE KING WILL KILL ME — BUT GOD WILL JUDGE HIM IN TURN — AND SOME DAY, PEACE WILL COME....

POOR HANNA! POOR BOYS!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET THEM!
THEY SAY THE KING IS RAGING! HE COULDN'T BREAK THEIR SPIRITS!

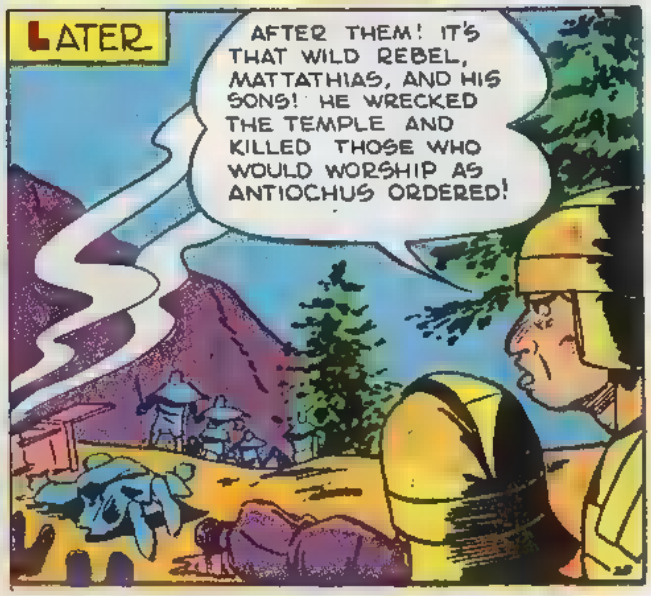

THE CRUEL DEATHS OF HANNA AND HER SEVEN FEARLESS SONS INSPIRED THE JEWS TO UNITE AGAINST THE TYRANT. ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE WAS JUDAS MACCABEUS
///


JUDAS TALKED TO THE PEOPLE ///
WE MUST AVENGE THEM... GO OUT SECRETLY INTO THE TOWNS... CALL OUR FRIENDS AND KINSMEN TOGETHER... PUT AN END TO THIS SLAVERY!

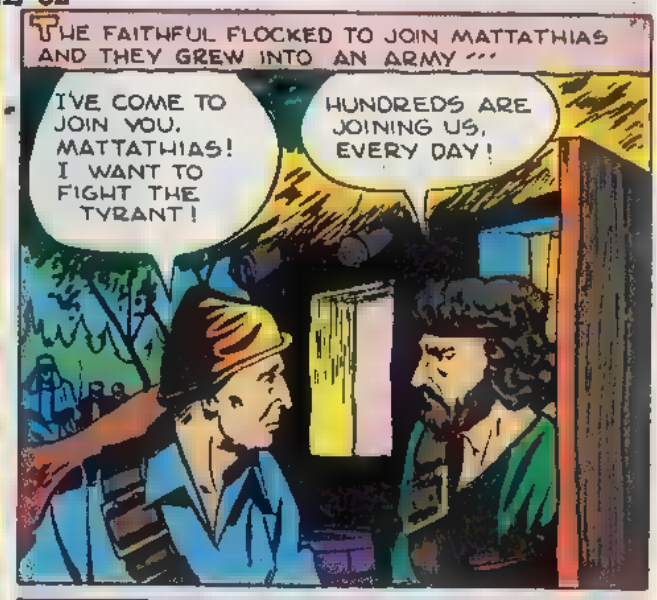

JUDAS MACCABEUS WAS THE SON OF A LEADER WHO VALUED LIBERTY MORE THAN LIFE. THE FATHER'S NAME WAS MATTATHIAS... THE NAMES OF HIS OTHER SONS WERE JONATHAN, JOHN, SIMON AND ELEAZAR
///

NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO, MY SONS AND I WILL NOT BOW DOWN TO THIS TYRANT KING! ARE YOU WITH ME, JUDAS? BOYS?
YES, FATHER!
WE'RE ALL WITH YOU, FATHER!

WHEN SOLDIERS OF THE KING CAME....
THE KING COMMANDS THAT ALL SHALL COME TO THE TEMPLES AND WORSHIP THE NEW GOD!
NO! WE REFUSE, MY SONS AND I!

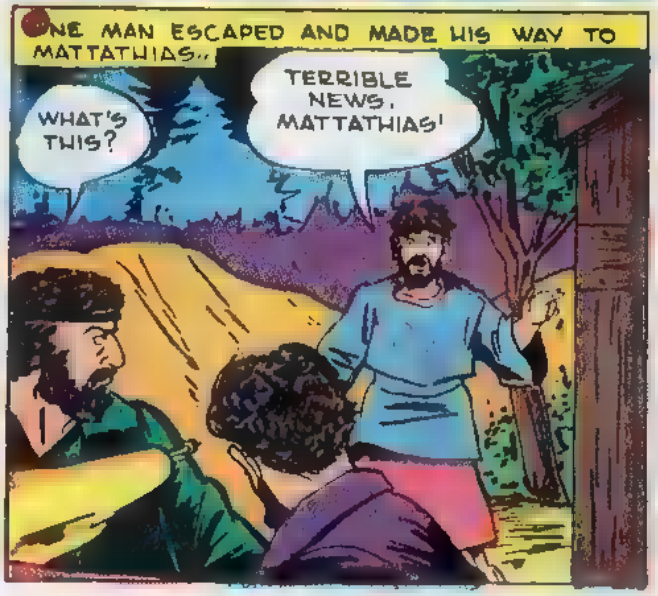

LATER
AFTER THEM! IT'S THAT WILD REBEL, MATTATHIAS, AND HIS SONS! HE WRECKED THE TEMPLE AND KILLED THOSE WHO WOULD WORSHIP AS ANTIOCHUS ORDERED!

THOSE WHO WANT TO RESIST THE TYRANT, FOLLOW ME! WE'LL FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS AND FIGHT FROM THERE!


THE FAITHFUL FLOCKED TO JOIN MATTATHIAS AND THEY GREW INTO AN ARMY ...
I'VE COME TO JOIN YOU, MATTATHIAS! I WANT TO FIGHT THE TYRANT!
HUNDREDS ARE JOINING US, EVERY DAY!

ANTIOCHUS SENT ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE REBELS. THE TYRANT'S SOLDIERS OVERTOOK PART OF MATTATHIAS' LITTLE BAND ONE SABBATH DAY WHILE THEY WERE AT WORSHIP WITH THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN.....

THE HEBREWS WERE DRAGGED OUT OF THEIR TEMPLE AND SLAIN ...

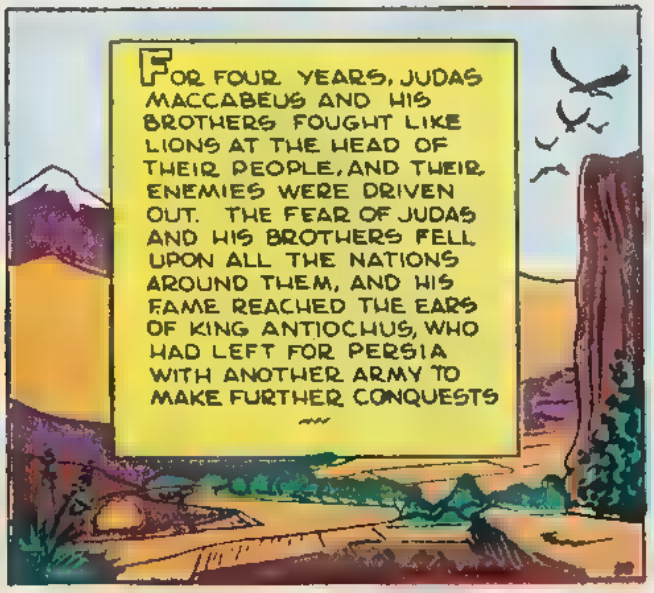

ONE MAN ESCAPED AND MADE HIS WAY TO MATTATHIAS...
WHAT'S THIS?
TERRIBLE NEWS, MATTATHIAS!

THEY DIED KEEPING THE SABBATH — THEY WOULD NOT FIGHT ON THE HOLY DAY!
IF WE DO THAT ALSO, WE'RE LOST! SABBATH OR NO, WE'LL FIGHT FOR OUR GOD!

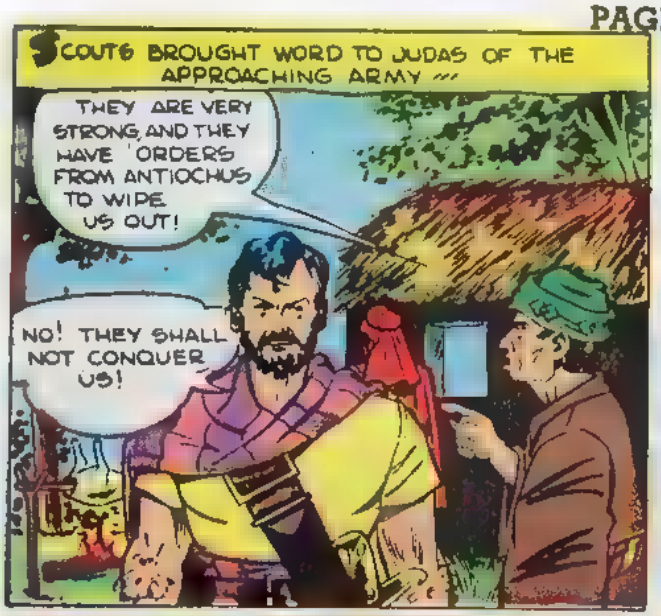
ATTACKING QUICKLY BEFORE THEY WERE ATTACKED, MATTATHIAS' RAGGED BANDS HARASSED THE ENEMY AND WON A GREAT VICTORY

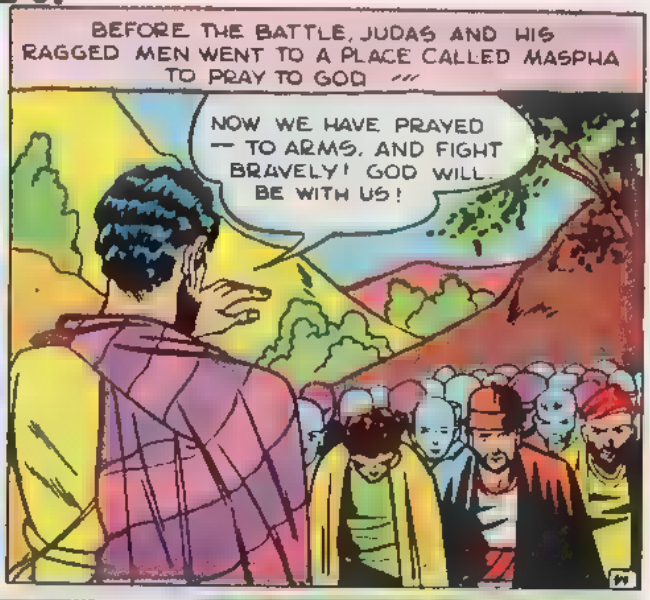
WE'VE WON! YOU FOUGHT WELL, JUDAS!
NOT FOR NOTHING DO MEN CALL ME "MACCABEUS"—THE HAMMERER!

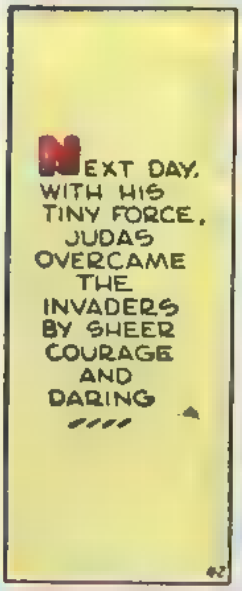
ONE DAY NOT LONG AFTER
THE DAY DRAWS NEAR WHEN I SHALL NO LONGER BE ON THIS EARTH...WHEN I AM GONE, LET JUDAS MACCABEUS LEAD OUR ARMY AND MANAGE THE WAR OF THE PEOPLE!
YES! WE'LL FOLLOW JUDAS!


FOR FOUR YEARS, JUDAS MACCABEUS AND HIS BROTHERS FOUGHT LIKE LIONS AT THE HEAD OF THEIR PEOPLE, AND THEIR ENEMIES WERE DRIVEN OUT. THE FEAR OF JUDAS AND HIS BROTHERS FELL UPON ALL THE NATIONS AROUND THEM, AND HIS FAME REACHED THE EARS OF KING ANTIOCHUS, WHO HAD LEFT FOR PERSIA WITH ANOTHER ARMY TO MAKE FURTHER CONQUESTS

LAST YEAR THIS FELLOW JUDAS MACCABEUS MADE SUCH TROUBLE IN ISRAEL THAT YOUR MAJESTY HARDLY COLLECTED ANY TRIBUTE MONEY THERE!
SEND OUR STRONGEST GENERAL TO ISRAEL TO OVERCOME THIS REBEL ARMY!

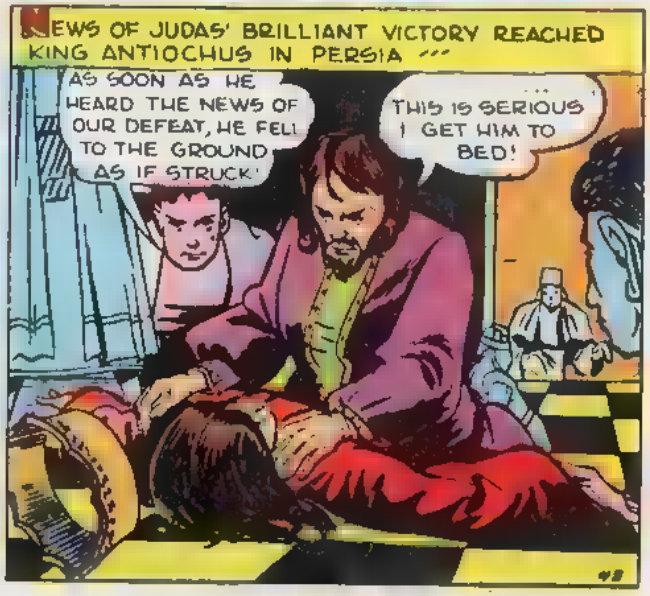

SCOUTS BROUGHT WORD TO JUDAS OF THE APPROACHING ARMY ...
THEY ARE VERY STRONG, AND THEY HAVE ORDERS FROM ANTIOCHUS TO WIPE US OUT!
NO! THEY SHALL NOT CONQUER US!


BEFORE THE BATTLE, JUDAS AND HIS RAGGED MEN WENT TO A PLACE CALLED MASPHA TO PRAY TO GOD ...
NOW WE HAVE PRAYED — TO ARMS, AND FIGHT BRAVELY! GOD WILL BE WITH US!

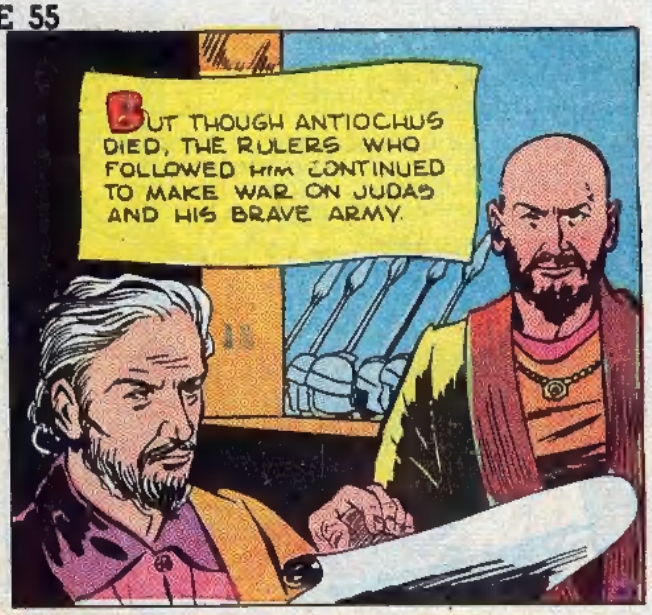

NEXT DAY, WITH HIS TINY FORCE, JUDAS OVERCAME THE INVADERS BY SHEER COURAGE AND DARING ....

THEY'RE IN FULL FLIGHT! THEY'RE LEAVING ALL THEIR TENTS AND ARMOR ... IT'S A GREAT VICTORY!

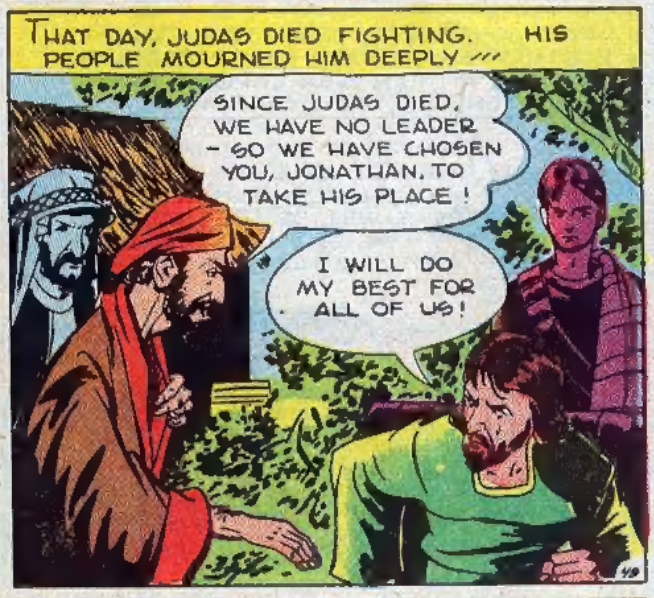
THEN JUDAS AND HIS MEN WENT AND RESTORED THE TEMPLES WHICH THE ENEMY HAD DEFILED ...
FOR EIGHT DAYS WE'LL DEDICATE THIS ALTAR!
A JOYOUS TIME!
ALL IS AS IT WAS BEFORE!

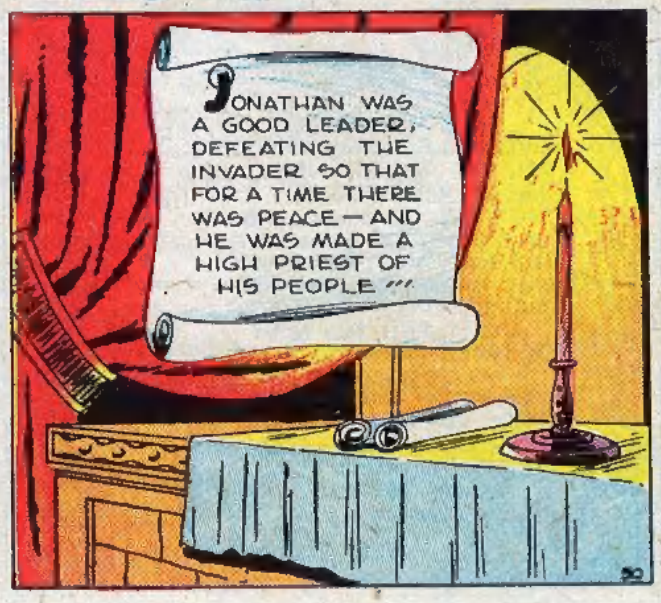

NEWS OF JUDAS' BRILLIANT VICTORY REACHED KING ANTIOCHUS IN PERSIA ...
AS SOON AS HE HEARD THE NEWS OF OUR DEFEAT, HE FELL TO THE GROUND AS IF STRUCK!
THIS IS SERIOUS! GET HIM TO BED!

I HAVE DONE GREAT EVIL TO JERUSALEM. BUT MY SINS HAVE OVERTAKEN ME. I WILL NOT GET WELL OF THIS AILMENT, BUT WILL DIE OF GRIEF IN THIS STRANGE LAND!


BUT THOUGH ANTIOCHUS DIED, THE RULERS WHO FOLLOWED HIM CONTINUED TO MAKE WAR ON JUDAS AND HIS BRAVE ARMY.

YET ANOTHER ARMY WAS SENT OUT ....
OUR SOLDIERS ARE DESERTING — THE ENEMY IS TOO STRONG FOR US. COME, JUDAS, LET'S SAVE OURSELVES — WE CAN FIGHT AGAIN!
NO, JONATHAN! IF OUR TIME HAS COME, LET US DIE MANFULLY AND NOT STAIN OUR GLORY!


THAT DAY, JUDAS DIED FIGHTING. HIS PEOPLE MOURNED HIM DEEPLY ....
SINCE JUDAS DIED, WE HAVE NO LEADER — SO WE HAVE CHOSEN YOU, JONATHAN, TO TAKE HIS PLACE!
I WILL DO MY BEST FOR ALL OF US!


JONATHAN WAS A GOOD LEADER, DEFEATING THE INVADER SO THAT FOR A TIME THERE WAS PEACE — AND HE WAS MADE A HIGH PRIEST OF HIS PEOPLE ....

THEN WAR THREATENED ONCE AGAIN ....
TRYPHON, WHO WANTS TO DESTROY YOU, IS MARCHING AGAINST US WITH A GREAT ARMY!
WE'LL RAISE A LARGER ARMY THAN HE HAS AND DEFEAT HIM!

FRIGHTENED BY EXTENT OF JONATHAN'S FORCES, TRYPHON DETERMINED TO WIN BY TREACHERY ////
WHY DID YOU CALL OUT YOUR TROOPS, JONATHAN? THIS IS NO WAR! SEND THEM HOME, AND COME WITH ME FOR A VISIT TO THE CITY OF PTOLEMAIS!
DARE I? YES, I'LL TRUST HIM!
52

TAKING ONLY A FEW SOLDIERS WITH HIM, JONATHAN WENT WITH TRYPHON – BUT AS SOON AS THEY WERE WITHIN THE CITY ~~
YOU BELIEVED ME! NOW YOU'RE IN MY POWER, JONATHAN, AND SHALL DIE!
MY PEOPLE! I LEAVE THEM LEADERLESS!
53

AFTER JONATHAN'S DEATH, THE THIRD BROTHER, SIMON, TOOK THE LEADERSHIP. TRYPHON, WITH AN EVEN LARGER ARMY, THREATENED ISRAEL ONCE MORE ///
MY FATHER AND ALL MY BROTHERS GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR ISRAEL'S SAKE... NOW I WILL BE YOUR LEADER – WE SHALL YET AVENGE OUR NATION!
WE'LL FIGHT! YOU SHALL LEAD US!
54

SIMON PROVED HIMSELF A GOOD LEADER. AT LENGTH HE AND HIS ARMY DROVE AWAY THE ENEMIES OF ISRAEL ////
IF MY FATHER AND BROTHERS COULD ONLY SEE THIS DAY!
55

.... AND THE PEOPLE MARCHED IN TRIUMPH BACK INTO JERUSALEM!
OUR CITY IS OURS ONCE MORE!
SIMON HAS AVENGED OUR WRONGS!
56

AND THE ANCIENT CHRONICLE SAYS..."AND ALL THE LAND OF JUDAH WAS AT REST DURING THE DAYS OF SIMON, AND HE SOUGHT THE GOOD OF HIS NATION.... AND EVERY MAN SAT UNDER HIS VINE AND UNDER HIS FIG TREE, AND THERE WAS NONE TO MAKE HIM AFRAID..."
SO FOR A TIME, THEIR TROUBLES WERE AT AN END, FOR SIMON AND HIS SUCCESSORS CONTINUED TO RULE FOR MANY YEARS
////
57

(continued from inside front cover)
helped these men of vision and faith with miracles. An example of this, pictured on the cover, is Elijah being fed by the ravens.

Today The Bible is being read by men and women in the Armed Forces everywhere. It gives them faith and courage to fight on, and never to give up. General MacArthur reads his Bible and prays regularly. Prime Minister Churchill in many of his talks refers to The Bible. Our President often quotes from The Bible and his Four Freedoms are founded on the teachings of The Bible.

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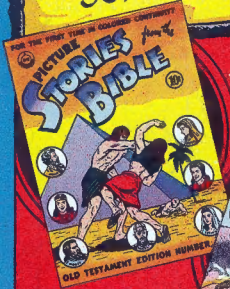

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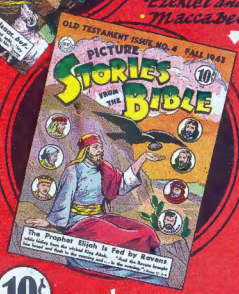

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